3 Iraqi officials abducted; Iraqis claim 14 dead in U.S. attack Page 6

STARS STRIPES.



Aniston. Pitt announce separation

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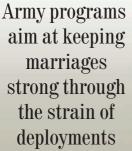


Eves on offense for Sunday's playoff matchups

\$1.00

SUNDAY, JANUARY 9, 2005 Volume 63. No. 265

> **Staying together** while far apart



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Chaplains with the 173rd Airborne



STARS STRIPES. COMING SOON



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ews Tracker ... What's new with old news

States

Washington gubernatorial votes More than two months after Washing-ton voters cast their ballots. Republican Dino Rossi is hoping the courts will give them another chance to pick their next governor

Rossi and the state GOP announced Friday they will contest the gubernatorial election that gave Rossi's Democratic foe. Christine Gregoire, a 129-vote victory.

Republicans filed a lawsuit contesting the election in Chelan County, in north-central Washington. GOP attorney Harry Korrell said Republicans would not seek to block Gregoire's inauguration, scheduled for Wednesday. Democrats said the state constitution won't allow a revote

Death penalty lawsuit: A confessed serial killer set to become the first inmate executed in New England in 40 years urged a feder-al judge Friday to dismiss efforts by the inmate's father and a civil liberties group to spare his life.

'I don't need anyone filing on my behalf,' Michael Ross told Judge Christopher Droney via closed circuit television from Osborn Correctional Institution in Somers,

Conn. "I can file my own lawsuits if I wish."

The Connecticut Civil Liberties Union and Ross' father, Dan, argue Connecticut's method of lethal injection amounts to cruel and unusual nunishment, and violates international treaties on torture and civil rights.

Peterson murders: The five people who are sharing a \$50,000 reward for finding the bodies of Laci Peterson and her fetus have chosen to stay out of the spotlight, but Laci Peterson's mother nonetheless offered them her gratitude Friday

"You could have chosen to keep on walking." Sharon Rocha said, her voice trembling at a news conference where the Carole Sund/Carrington Foundation formally pre-sented the reward. "You didn't. You did the right thing. For that we will be eternally

None of the five reward recipients attended the event, according to the Modesto (Calif.) Bee. But Rocha said their grisly dis-coveries along the shore of San Francisco Bay nearly two years ago brought a measure of peace and closure to her family.

Scott Peterson, 32, Laci Peterson's hus-band, was convicted in November of murdering his pregnant wife and dumping her body in San Francisco Bay as he pretended to fish alone on Christmas Eve 2002

Triplet custody battle: A judge on Friday awarded final legal custody to a surrogate mother in Erie, Pa., who gave birth to trip-lets and then refused to give them up, saying the biological father and his fiancee wed a lack of interest.

In his ruling, Erie County Judge Shad Connelly said Danielle Bimber, 30, "is the better caretaker by far.'

Connelly had already named Bimber the legal mother of the three boys, who were born Nov. 19, 2003, and granted her temporary primary custody last year.

Clergy sex abuse: The Archdiocese of Portland, Ore., has begun running ads in major U.S. newspapers alerting alleged vic-



Falun Gong protest: A Taiwanese Falun Gong practitioner is handcuffed to a prison door Saturday during a skit held outside the Chiang Kai-shek Memorial Hall in Taipei, Taiwan About 3,000 Falun Gong members formed a human chain 4 miles long through Taipei on Saturday to protest persecution of the group's followers in China. The protesters, who demonstrated despite rain, dubbed their chain the "Great Wall of Justice." Beijing says Falun Gong is an "evil cult" that threatens to sabotage social order and has arrested thousands of followers since it outlawed the group in 1999.

line to make claims in most cases.

The \$250,000 worth of ads, required as part of the church's bankruptcy proceedwill run in 21 newspapers, The Wall Street Journal and USA Today,

over the next three weeks

JonBenet Ramsey death: A federal judge has tossed out a lawsuit filed by the parents of JonBenet Ramsey against Fox News Channel, saying a network report unfavor-able to the couple was not defamatory. Judge Phillip Figa suggested that John and Patsy Ramsey seek vindication "in the

court of public opinion. In a ruling made public Friday, Figa said litigation in defamation cases could chill con-stitutionally protected free speech rights and because of that, the facts in such cases must

be established with "convincing clarity." The lawsuit was filed over a December 2002 story that aired around the six-year anniversary of the 6-year-old girl's slaying.

War on terrorism

Abu Ghraib abuse trial: A terror suspect captured by Navy SEALs in Iraq was able to walk on his own and was resisting his captors when the CIA took custody of him, according to a Navy officer who said he was the last SEAL to see the prisoner alive.

Testimony at a military hearing for a Navy SEAL lieutenant charged with assault and maltreatment indicated that Manadel al-Jamadi died a short time later in the shower room of Abu Ghraib prison while he was being interrogated by the CIA

Friday's testimony from a Navy SEAL

tims of clergy sex abuse to an April 29 dead- lieutenant commander who oversaw the oneration to capture al-Jamadi contradicted statements about the operation by a dis-graced ex-SEAL. The former SEAL has stated that the prisoner was "lifeless" when he was left at Abu Ghraib following a severe beating by the SEALs.

World

Pakistan violence: At least 11 people were killed in sectarian clashes in a northern Pakistan city on Saturday, prompting au-thorities to impose a curfew and summon troops to restore order, officials said.

The shooting and wounding of a prominent Shiite Muslim leader early Saturday triggered the violence between his supporters and Sunni Muslims in the Himalayan city of Gilgit, about 150 miles north of the capital, Islamabad,

Hundreds of Shiites angered by the shooting of cleric Agha Ziauddin and two of his security guards by unidentified gunmen as they traveled in a car had gone on a rampage, burning government buildings and at-tacking shops belonging to Sunnis. Police official Mohammed Sadaqat said.

African Union summit: African heads of state will meet in Nigeria later this month for a twice-yearly African Union summit that will focus on continent hotspots Congo, Sudan and Ivory Coast, officials said Satur-

All 53 African Union heads of state have been invited to the Jan. 30-31 summit in the capital, Abuia, said Nigerian foreign ministry official Florentina Ukonga.

Stories and photos from The Associated Press

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Army tries to help war-torn marriages

173rd to benefit with new camps and retreats

BY KENT HARRIS

Stars and Stripes

VICENZA, Italy — When mem-bers of the Southern European Task Force (Airborne) head to Afghanistan in a few months, they'll he facing hostile conditions thousands of miles from their fami-

But if local military leaders have their way, those soldiers won't be worrving about potentially hostile situations within their

families "A soldier who is confident in the state of their marriage is a solbetter dier." says Chaplain (Maj.) David Reauchamn of the 173rd Airborne Bri-



gade "From chaplain's viewpoint . what's going to last longer: the Army career or the marriage Hopefully the marriage is going to last longer



But in today's Army where long deployments seem to be a never-ending prospect, marriages are thought to be more at risk. However, neither the 173rd — which spent a year in Iraq be-fore returning last spring — SETAF, nor U.S. Army Europe keeps statistics on divorces to prove or disprove that theory.

Chaplain (Maj.) Leon Kircher, chaplain for the 22nd Area Support Group, which includes Vicenza, counseled some of the 173rd's couples who were having trouble during and after the deployment He said some relationships did end in divorce

"Not as many as I thought there could be," he said. "To say it was epidemic? No."

Both chaplains attribute that to a strong effort by the various agencies at Caserma Ederle charged with supporting families while troops are away. And both think the effort will be better for the upcoming deployment.

Chaplains will lead 300 couples representing about a quarter of those married in the brigade on overnight retreats at Lake Garda before the deployment. Col. Kevin Owens, the 173rd commander, allocated thousands of dollars from brigade funds to pay for the retreat. Younger enlisted



gram that specifically targets marriages during deployment.

But an array of new measures initialized while many of the Europe-based soldiers served in Iraq contain elements that could help couples in need Counseling is available during the command's

mandatory reintegration program. And block leave is designed to give families time to readjust. a dozen marriage and family therapists are spread out among the largest Army communities in Germany and Belgium

Area support groups and individual communities are tasked with most of the responsibility for creating and maintaining marriage-enrichment programs, which vary by location.

- Kent Harris

soldiers and their spouses will get most of the spots. expensive," Beauchamp

said. "But if we can save marriag-es, it's worth it." Those participating will focus

on communication, forgiveness and commitment, he said. Each partner will be given a commitment coin to carry during the deployment.

"It'll be a reminder to them that they've got responsibilities to-ward another person," he said. "Not only for the soldiers, but also their spouses.

In fact, Beauchamp said every married couple in the brigade would get a chance to participate in a commitment ceremony and receive a coin. Those not on the retreats can participate at the base chanel. The Protestant Women of the Chapel is sponsoring an event targeting couples Jan. 21-22 that's called "Battle Proofing Your Marriage

During the deployment, Kirch-

er said chaplains will be working on both ends to help couples in need. He said it will be possible to arrange phone sessions to counsel both partners together or separately.

The chapel plans to hold weekly gatherings for spouses with free child care so moms - and dads - can get together to eat, talk, shop or visit local sights. Kircher said he hopes the informal gatherings will give spouses a chance to share problems and solutions with one another.

The chapel also will sponsor monthly retreats for spouses during the deployment, focusing on potential problems and solutions.

"It's like tuning up a car," Kircher said. "Sometimes you don't even realize it, but something could be wrong.

In the field, Beauchamp said he'll be leading a 40-week course using the best-selling inspirational book, "Purpose Driven Life." Kircher will be sending out concurrent messages to the community, so those on both sides can fol-

After the deployment, couples can participate in the Army's "Building Strong and Ready Families" program. Dozens participated after the last deployment, Reauchamn said And the chanlains hope there will be more opportunities this time if there's a

Kircher said commanders realize that helping soldiers keep good relationships with their spouses has become a key part of the deployment process

"One thing that weighs on a soldier's mind is if their family is being taken care of," he said. "When they're out on a patrol or inspecting something, you don't want that to be the first thing on their minds. They've got to be focused on the job at hand."

E-mail Kent Harris at harrisk@mail.estripes.osd.mil

\$2 million being spent on spouse programs

BY KIMBERLY HEFLING The Associated Press

HOPKINSVILLE, Ky. - With studies showing divorce rates as high as 21 percent among couples where one spouse has been sent off to war, the Army is spending \$2 million on a variety of marriage programs, including vouchers for romantic getaways to plac-

es like the Opryland 44 I've been Hotel in Nashville in the

Tenn Army 20 Set. Jose uears. Bermudez returned and I've from Irag never this he seen the came home to a new Armybaby and a pay for marriage. "We were programs on the brink

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under age

mudez ac-Lt. Col. knowl edged Chester Feert the couple chanlain ate lunch refor the Fort cently with Camphell-hased their three 101st Airborne children, all Division

like this ??

The Bermudezes were among 300 couples with the Fort Campbell-based 101st Airborne Divi-sion who have attended "marriage enrichment" seminars put on by the Army in hopes of saving war-ravaged relationships.

"I've been in the Army 20 years, and I've never seen the Army pay for programs like this. said Lt. Col. Chester Egert, chaplain for the 101st.

One program being implemented Army-wide teaches couples forgiveness and the skills to communicate.

It includes a 40-hour course with lessons on the dangers of alcohol and tobacco and how to recognize post-traumatic stress

Soldiers who complete it are rewarded with promotion points and a weekend retreat with their

"If you learn those skills, you can make an impact on the number of divorces, and the number, we think, of reports of physical violence," said Col. Glen Bloomstrom, director of ministry initiatives for the Chief of Chaplains.

Deadline nearing to file application for scholarships

Stars and Stripes

Feb. 16 is the deadline to submit applications for the Scholarships for Military Children program, supported by the Defense Commissary Agency.

Applications for the \$1,500 shopking must be delivered by mail or hand to any of the 275 commissaries worldwide by close of business Feb. 16, according to a DECA news release. At least one scholarship will be awarded at every commissary location with qualified applicants.

The program is in its fifth year and has awarded nearly 3,000 scholarships worth more than \$3.2 million.

Applications can be downloaded through a link at www.commissaries.com, or from www.militaryscholar.org. It can be filled out by hand or on the computer. Applications also are available at commissaries.

The program is open to unmarried children under the age of 21 (23 if enrolled in school) of active-duty personnel, including Coast Guard, National Guard and Reserves, and retired military. Elgibility will be determined using the Defense Enrollment Eligibiliyt Reporting System database. Applicants should ensure that they and their sponsor are enrolled in DEERS and have current ID

Applicants must be planning to attend, or already attending, an accredited college or university full time in the 2005 fall term, or be enrolled in a program designed to transfer directly into a four-year program.

DECA program liaison Edna

Hoogewind advised applicants to pay special attention to the essay portion of the application. "In past years, the essay has

"In past years, the essay has been a key factor in deciding among the many outstanding applicants," she said. Fisher House Foundation, a

rissie riouse romantini, a nonprofit organization that builds rooms for families to use overnight near military medical facilities, administers the program, and Scholarship Managers, a professional firm that has handled more than 400 programs, screens applicants and awards scholarships. Neither Fisher House nor DECA is involved in the decision process.

Scholarships are primarily funded through the donations by various manufacturers, brokers and suppliers that sell products in commissaries.

Proud moment



Teresa Tucker assists in the promotion of her husband, Brig, Gen. Michael Tucker, the 1st Armored Division's assistant division commander for maneuver. during a ceremony Friday at Wiesbaden Army Airfield Germany, Watching at left is Gen. B.B. Bell. commander of U.S. Army Europe and the 7th Army. Tucker joined the division in 2001, led the 1st Brigade Combat Team in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, and assumed his current position at the end

of his deployment.
CHRISTOPHER STANIS

Congressman out to add Marines to Department of the Navy name

BY LEO SHANE III Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — A North Carolina congressman wants to change the Department of the Navy's name so that Marines, including those at two bases in his district, get full credit for their importance to national defense.

A bill proposed this week by Rep. Walter Jones, R-N.C., would rename the agency to "The Department of the Navy and Marine Corps." He says the change would clarify the corps' position as the fourth major defense branch, instead of implying that the Marines are somehow below the Army, Air Force and Navy.

"There isn't a subordinate relationship between the Chief of Naval Operations and the Commandant of the Marines Corps," Jones said, "They are equivalent parts of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and it is time that the Department of the Navy recognizes their equal status."

Jones has brought up the issue in the last two legislative sessions, only to see the proposal stall in committee hearings before the full House of Representatives could vote on the measure

Marine Corps officials had no comment on the legislation. Capt. Kevin Wensing, spokesman for Navy Secretary Gordon England, said the secretary has deflected the issue in the past, saying that he is honored to serve no matter what the department's name

But Wensing said England frequently jokes that Marines he has spoken with are opposed to the new

"They think he should be 'Secretary of the Marine Corps and Navy," he said. "They want top billing." The Associated Press contributed to this story.

E-mail Leo Shane at: shanel@stripes.osd.mil

USS Stennis en route to new home in Bremerton

BY MELANTHIA MITCHELL
The Associated Press

SEATTLE — As the USS Carl Vinson prepares to leave its homeport in Bremerton, the USS John C. Stennis is sailing in to take its place, bringing with it thousands of sailors and their families from its former base at San Diego.

"With the Vinson leaving, they wanted to replace it with another carrier," Navy spokeswoman Chief Petty Officer Jeri Robinson said, noting the Stemis is expected to remain at Naval Base Kitsap for about 10 years. Its strike group, however, will remain near

San Diego at Naval Air Station North Island.

The aircraft carrier has spent the past six years in San Diego, where it departed Wednesday for its four-day journey north to its new home at the Bremerton base, across Puget Sound from Seattle.

The Nimitz-class carrier's planned arrival Saturday is also part of a regular rotation throughout the fleet. During its first 10 months, the Stennis will be moved to a dry dock at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard for long-awaited maintenance and updates, Robinson said.

The Stennis, commanded by Capt. David H. Buss, brings with it more than 2,500 sailors, over half of whom have families who have been moving to the Kitsap Peninsula since May.

Coordinating the move of so many people during the holidays and in the midst of a school year was a challenge, said Beth Wiruth, the carrier's command ombudsman, who moved in Au-

"It's like moving a whole city. There's over 6,000 people involved when you move the sailors and their families," Wiruth said from her new housing at Naval Submarine Base Bangor, about 10 miles north of Bremerton. The long stay will be a welcome

reprieve for Wiruth and her husband, Petty Officer 1st Class Scott Wiruth, an electronics technician who works on combat systems. The couple has moved five times in the 18 months they've been married, with him gone 70 percent of the time.

"I cannot wait to see that ship come around the bend," said Wiruth, who last saw her husband in November when the Stennis returned from a five-month deployment in the western Pacific. Other families have yet to be reunited. "For many of these families, this is homecoming," she said.

The 1,092-foot Stennis recently participated in the Navy's new Fleet Response Plan. Exercises this summer had seven of the Navy's 12 carrier strike groups deployed simultaneously to test the feasibility of having multiple detachments at sea.

The USS Carl Vinson, based at Bremerton since 1997, this month begins a six-month deployment in the western Pacific. In November, the aircraft carrier and its 3,200 sailors head for Newport News, Va., for a 3 ½-year refueling overhaul.

Mildenhall airmen conducting exercises

Residents of Suffolk County, England, may see what looks like a new sequel to "Die Hard" around Beck Row on Monday. But the colored smoke, troops dressed in chemical gear

or running around in what looks like warfare is just an exercise of the U.S. Air Force's 352nd Special Operations Group from RAF Mildenhall. The group will conduct exercises from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. near Beck Row Auto Breakers throughout the week.

According to an Air Force news release, the disruption to neighbors caused by the drills should be minimal. The smoke is harmless to people and animals, the military said.

Guards will be posted to control access to the training area.

Fort Benning insurance refunds

ATLANTA — A Texas-based insurance company has been ordered to refund \$1.3 million to Fort Benning, Ga., soldiers who were improperly sold life insurance policies.

American-Amicable Life Insurance Co. of Texas will refund money from premiums paid by about 900 active-duty soldiers at Fort Benning, said Georgia Insurance Commissioner John Oxendine, who ordered the refunds Friday. The policies were sold during 2002.

Refunds will include all sales of the Horizon Life policies, Oxendine said. The amounts of the refunds will depend on how much the soldiers paid.

Oxendine said the insurer broke federal and state rules against acting like disinterested financial planners while selling policies to soldiers in training.

Nuclear sub runs aground

HONOLULU — A nuclear submarine ran aground about 350 miles south of Guam, injuring several sailors, one of them critically, the Navy said.

There were no reports of damage to the USS San Francisco's reactor plant, which was operating normally, the Navy said.

Jon Yoshishige, a spokesman for the U.S. Pacific Fleet based at Pearl Harbor, said the Friday afternoon incident is under investigation and the 360-foot submarine was headed back to its home port in Guam.

Details on the sailors' injuries were not immediately available. The sub has a crew of 137, officials said. Military and Coast Guard aircraft from Guam were en

Military and Coast Guard aircraft from Guam were en route to monitor the submarine and assist if needed, the Navy said.

From staff and wire reports

U.S. soldier acquitted of manslaughter in drowning

But GI is guilty of assault in Tigris River incident BY ANGELA K. BROWN The Associated Press

FORT HOOD, Texas — A U.S. Army sergeant was acquitted Friday of involuntary manslaughter in the alleged drowning of an Iraqi civilian who was forced into the Tigris River by U.S. soldiers for violating curfew.

The jury, however, convicted Army Sgt. 1st Class Tracy Perkins. 33. of assault in the January 2004 incident.

Defense attorneys contended the victim may still be alive, but say if he is dead, it was not at the hands of U.S. soldiers

The jury of Army officers and enlisted members, who deliberated 17 hours over two days, were allowed to consider lesser charges against Perkins, who has been in the military for 14 years.

Perkins and another soldier were accused of ordering soldiers to push two Iraqis into the river in Samarra. Prosecutors say Zaidoun Hassoun, 19, drowned and his cousin, Marwan Hassoun, climbed out the river

Marwan Hassoun testified that he and his cousin were detained while driving back to Samarra with plumbing supplies, then forced at gunpoint into the river as U.S. soldiers laughed.

He said he tried to save his cousin by grabbing his hand, but the powerful current swept Zaidoun away. Marwan said the body was found in the river nearly two weeks later.

But three soldiers called by the defense testified that they were looking through night-vision equipment that night and saw two Iragis on the river bank after the

Sgt. Irene Cintron, an Army investigator, testified that government officials never had Zaidoun's body exhumed for testing because of security concerns. She said she could not confirm whether the corpse shown in a video provided by the family was Zaid-

Perkins was convicted of assault consummated by battery in Zaidoun's purported death, which carries a maximum sentence of

six months. He was convicted of aggravated assault in connection with Marwan Hassoun.

Perkins also was convicted of obstruction of justice and aggravated assault for ordering a soldier to throw another Iraqi man into the river in December 2003

near Balad The sentencing phase of the trial was scheduled to begin Saturday. Perkins' penalty ranges from

no punishment to 11½ years.

Defense attorney Capt. Josh Norris said in closing arguments that the soldiers were trying to find non-lethal ways to deter crime and establish respect in the

No soldiers disputed that the two Iraqis were forced into the river. Soldiers testifying for the prosecution and defense said they never heard Perkins order the Iraqis into the river and that he stayed in his vehicle that night

The soldiers said the orders came from Army 1st Lt. Jack Saville, the platoon leader, who is to be tried in March on the same charges as Perkins — as well as a conspiracy charge.

Helping out Iraqi children



Show dates are approximate. Check your local theater or aafes a for exact show dates and times

Rahenhausen 25 Feb-03 Mar

Bamberg 28 Jan-03 Feb Baumholder 11-17 Feb

.04-10 Mar

.4-10 Feb

18-24 Feb

21-27 Jan

.4-10 Feb

18-24 Feb

11-17 Feb

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.28 Jan-03 Feb

.28 Jan-03 Feb

.28 Jan-03 Feb

.25 Feb-03 Mar

Adana

Balad

Dexheim

Giebelstadt

Grafenwoehr

Heidelberg

Illsheim

Kitzingen

Lakenheath

Spangdahlem

Vicenza

Vaihingen

Ramstein Nightingale 28 Jan-03 Feb

Wuerzburg21-27 Jan

Mannheim

Mildenhall

Hohenfels

Hanau

The Al Salama Organization, in coordination with the 1st Infantry Division-led Task Force Danger, delivers clothes, toys and other items donated by U.S. citizens to families in Kirkuk, Iraq, last week. Al Salama is Iraq's version of The Salvation Army, and it received the supplies through Operation Crayon, a program started to school materials for Iraqi children. It delivered 300 packages last week and is to hand out an additional 300 to 500 packages in the next 20 days.

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Showtimes are subject to change. Please check your local theater or aafes.com to verify show dates

HIII TPEATERS

Vilseck .

Vogelweh

3 senior officials abducted

Iraqis: U.S. attack killed 14, wounded 5

BY DUSAN STOJANOVIC The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Militants abducted three senior Iraqi officials, beheaded a man down worked for the U.S. military and killed at least eight others, officials said Saturda, a day after a U.S. general warned that insurgents may be planning "horrific" attacks ahead of Jan. 30 elections.
Also Saturday, an explosion at a house

Also Saturday, an explosion at a house south of Mosul killed 14 people and wounded five early Saturday, and the owner blamed a U.S. air attack. A U.S. military spokesman said the Americans were compiling information on the incident and

would have a statement later Saturday. The house owner, Ali Yousef, said the airstrike happened at about 2:30 am. in this village 30 miles south of Mosul. American troops immediately came and surrounded the area, blocking access for four hours.

The brick house was reduced to a pile of rubble, according to an Associated Press photographer at the scene. By evening Saturday, all 14 dead had been buried in a nearby company. You self said

nearby cemetery, Yousef said.
Air Force Brig. Gen. Erv Lessel, deputy chief of staff for strategic communications in Iraq, said Friday the United States has no intelligence indicating specific plots by the militants. But he said American leaders expected a rise in attacks.

"I think a worst case is where they have a series of horrific attacks that cause mass casualties in some spectacular fashion in the days leading up to the elections," Lessel said.

The escalating insurgency in Iraq is believed to be led by minority Sunnis, who dominated the country during Saddam Hussein's regime. The militants are against a the landmark election later this month.

In the election — the first democratic vote in Iraq since the country was formed in 1932 — the Sunnis are certain to lose their dominance to the Shiites, who comprise 60 percent of Iraq's 26 million peo-



Iraqi policemen and residents gather around the bullet-riddled vehicle of municipal council member Majid Hilal al-Tamimi in the southern city of Basra on Saturday. Al-Tamimi was seriously injured and one of his guards was killed after unknown assailants opened fire at them outside the city hall.

This week has seen a string of assassinations, suicide car bombings and other assaults that killed nearly 100 people, mostly Iraqi security troops, who are seen by the militants as collaborators with the Ameri-

can occupiers.

Authorities in Saddam's hometown of Tikrit said Saturday that gummen abducted a deputy governor of a central Iraqi province, two other senior officials and their driver as they were returning from a meeting with Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, Iraq's most prominent Shite leader, in the holy city of Najaf to discuss national elections.

The delegation was stopped and the members kidnapped about 40 miles south of Baghdad on Friday. The area is in the so-called "triangle of death," a string of Sunni-controlled towns that have been the scene of frequent attacks.

The U.S. military said the delegation was traveling in two cars of which one managed the escape militants' ambush.

"Those insurgents and terrorists who intimidate and resort to kidnapping public officials are the true enemies of the Iraqi people," said U.S. military spokesman Maj. Neal O'Brien.

Meanwhile, an official with Iraq's Interior Ministry said the ministry has launched a search operation for a missing French journalist and her translator, amid a possible witness account that they were abducted in downtown Baehdad.

Florence Aubenas, a reporter for the daily newspaper Liberation, and translator

Hussein Hanoun al-Saadi were last seen Wednesday morning leaving Aubenas' hotel in the Iraqi capital.

The Interior Ministry official said that so far they have no information or leads on their whereabouts.

"We have formed a fact-find working team to gather information" about the Aubenas and al-Saadi, the official said on condition of anonymity.

In Baqouba, insurgents beheaded a translator who was working with the U.S. army after breaking into his house, police said Saturday. An Iraqi policeman was killed by masked gummen as he was leaving his house the southern Dora neighborhood of Baghdad.

Col. Khamees Jassim Khirbit, a ranking police official in the tense city of Ramadi was gunned down and his car was set ablaze, police said. Another senior police official, Lt. Col. Abed Ahmed, who supervised police operations in the volatile Anbar province, was shot dead on a street in central Ramadi.

A booby-trapped car blew up Saturday at a gas station in Mahaweel, about 35 miles south of Baghdad. One man was killed and several others were injured, police said.

In Baghdad's western neighborhood of Khadraa, gummen killed Abboud Khalaf al-Lahibi, deputy secretary-general of the National Front for Iraqi tribes — a group representing several Iraqi tribes — his aide, Ibrahim al-Farhan, said. A body-guard was killed and three others wounded in the attack, he said.

U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Pre

As of Friday, at least 1,350 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 1,056 died as a result of hostile action, the Defense Department said. The figures include three military

The AP count is eight higher than the Defense Department's tally, last updated at 10 a.m. Friday.

The British military has reported 76 deaths; Italy, 19; Poland, 16; Spain, 11; Ukraine, nine; Bulgaria, seven; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary and Latvia one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,212 U.S. military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 947 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers. The latest deaths reported by the mili-

tary:

■ No deaths reported.

The latest identifications reported by the Defense Department and the Louisi-

ana National Guard:
Killed Thursday by a roadside bomb
in northwest Baghdad; assigned to the
Army National Guard, 256th Infantry

Brigade, 2nd Battalion, 156th Infantry Regiment, Lafayette, La.:

Army Spc. Bradley Bergeron,
Houma La.

■ Army Sgt. Christopher Babin, Houma, La.

■ Army Pfc. Armand Frickey, Houma, La.

Houma, La.

■ Army Spc. Warren Murphy, Marrero, La.

Army Spc. Huey Fassbender, LaPlace, La.

Army Sgt. 1st Class Kurt Comeaux, Raceland, La. Killed Tuesday in Taji, Iraq, when an

explosive detonated near their vehicle:

Army Spc. Jimmy D. Buie, 44, Floral, Ark; assigned to the National Guards 3rd Battalion, 153rd Infantry Regiment, 39th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, Fordyce, Ark.

■ Army Spc. Joshua S. Marcum, 33, Evening Shade, Ark.; assigned to the National Guard's 3rd Battalion, 153rd Infantry Regiment, 39th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, Camden, Ark.

Tantry Regment, 39th Innanty Brigade
Combat Team, Camden, Ark.
■ Army Spc. Jeremy W. McHalffey,
28, Mabelvale, Ark.; assigned to the National Guard's 39th Infantry Brigade,
Little Rock. Ark.

■ Marine Sgt. Zachariah S. Davis, 25, Twentlynine Palms, Calif; killed Thursday in Iraq's Anbar province; assigned to 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Twentynine Palms, Calif.

■ Marine Lance Cpl. Julio C. Cisneros Alvarez, 22, Pharr, Texas; killed Thursday in Iraq's Anbar province; assigned to 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Twentynine Palms, Calif.

Army Sgt. Bennie J. Washington, 25, Atlanta; died Tuesday in Brooke Army Medical Center, San Antonio of injuries sustained Oct. 14 in Ramadi, Iraq, when his vehicle was struck by a grenade; assigned to the 44th Engineer Battalion, 2nd Infantry Division, Camp Howze, Korea.

Army Pfc. Curtis L. Wooten III, 20, Spanaway, Wash.; died Tuesday in Balad, Iraq, when an explosive detonated near his vehicle; assigned to the 1st Battalion, 77th Armor Regiment, 1st In Fantry Division, Schweinfurt, Germany.

No bombshells in U.N. oil-for-food audits

BY KEN GUGGENHEIM

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The United Nations' long-secret internal audits on the oil-fordod program do not reveal any bombshells, investigators told congressional aides Friday ahead of next week's release of the reports.

The 56 audits have been a source of contention between the United Nations and members of Congress examining allegations of corruption in the program. U.N. officials have declined to release the audits while a three-member commission appointed by Secretary-General Kofi Annan conducts its own investigation.

That refusal made lawmakers suspi-

cious that the audits pointed to widespread problems. It also contributed to criticism of Annan over the program and to one senator's calls for his resignation.

The commission, headed by former Federal Reserve Chairman Paul Volcker, announced Friday that it would release the reports to the public Monday. Volcker is expected to issue a preliminary report this month that will include an analysis of the audits.

Two congressional aides, speaking on condition of anonymity, said congressional staff members were told by Volcker's investigators that the audits didn't reveal rampant corruption.

In an interview with The New York Times published Friday, Volcker was quoted as saying the audits 'don't prove anything.' There's no flaming red flags in this stuff," he said.

The \$60 billion oil-for-food program was created as a humanitarian exemption to sanctions imposed on Iraq after the 1990 invasion of Kuwait. Beginning in 1996, it allowed Saddam Hussein's government to sell oil and use the proceeds to buy food, medicine and other items.

The program is widely credited with preventing starvation in Iraq, but investigations by congressional auditors and CIA weapons inspector Charles Duelfer found that it was riddled with corruption. They said Saddam received kickbacks and bribed U.N. and foreign government officials in an attempt to build political momentum against the sanctions.

Mobile assault platoons keep roads safe

Marines patrolling roads between Hit and Hadithah for more insurgent activity

BY JOSEPH GIORDONO
Stars and Strings

HADITHAH, Iraq — Marines are aggressively targeting insurgents who plant roadside bombs and land mines along what's called the "Hit-Hadithah Corridor," a strategic stretch of desert roads running along the Euphrates River northwest of Falluiah

The roads are used by both sides in the conflict: the U.S. military runs patrols and supply convoys; the insurgents use them to transport money, fighters and munitions in Al Anbar province.

Assembled in mobile assault platons, or MAPs, Marines from the 1st Battalion, 2srd Marine Regiment spend long, cold patrols keeping the routes clear. From Humveso on the roads or observation posts on high ground overlooking the corridor, the Marines watch for people planting roadside bombs or other explosive devices.

And increasingly, they look for suicide

"That's the only thing left of that guy," said Sgt. William Henderson, platoon sergeant of MAP 3, pointing to charred bits of twisted metal off the side of the road Thursday. The day before, a sedan painted with the orange-and-white markings of Iraqi



JOSEPH GIORDONO/Stars and Stripes

Marines from Mobile Assault Platoon 3 check out a terrain map they found in the desert near Hadithah, Iraq, northwest of Fallujah. They suspect it is used by insurgents to track

U.S. military movements and plan attacks. taxicabs detonated as a U.S. convoy passed.

In that attack, only the suicide bomber was killed.

On a typical patrol, the MAP teams

On a typical patrol, the MAP teams spend 12 hours combing the roads, checking for indications of freshly laid munitions and searching suspect vehicles. The insurgents, Marines say, tend to strike in the same spots, so careful attention is paid to several intersections and stretches of road.

everal intersections and stretches of road. On Thursday, a howling, bitterly cold wind made for a long patrol for MAP 3. Henderson and Cpl. Ben McGuire, a 25-year-old from Red Oak, Texas, took turns halting traffic while other Marines inspected the routes. Several times, warning shots were fired at vehicles acting erratical-

ly or getting too close to the Marines.
"I don't worry about the mortars or the IEDs. I worry about the WBIEDs," the military's acronym for vehicle-borne improvised explosive devices, said Lance Cpl.
John Knepper, a 20-year-old from Austin,

Knepper has seen firsthand what the car bombs can do. A few weeks back, a suicibe bomber detonated less than 30 yards from a group of Marines; several were injured by shrapnel, but most were saved from serious injury by a thick stone wall.

ous injury by a thick stone wall.
"That was the biggest explosion I've ever seen. It was incredible," said Knepper, who still has pieces of shrapnel in his arm from a land mine encountered on a different patrol.

Late in the afternoon, the Marines of MAP 3 pulled off the roads and patrolled near an old Iraqi military outpost. Nearby, then found a terrain model made of small stones on the desert floor; an arrow pointed north, and other lines of stones formed buildings and roads. The Marines guessed

it was made by insurgents.
The patrol then occupied a strategic overlook, using high-powered optics to watch the traffic below. Traffic in the area has picked up in recent days, the Marines said, as many locals start the Hajj, the annual Muslim pilgrimage to Mecca.

The Marines watched for people dropping or burying explosive devices on the roads, and also for vehicles bearing the hallmarks of car bombs: erratic driving, single occupants, cars riding low to the ground.

They radioed suspicious vehicles to a nearby sniper team, also tracking the roads and ready to stop anyone wanting to make this piece of the corridor a little more dangerous.

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Bombs can wrack troops' nerves as well as bodies

BY JASON CHUDY

Stars and Stripes

BAGHDAD, Iraq — When a vehicle patrol from Company B of the 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment was struck by a roadside bomb Tuesday morning, the soldiers — none of whom were in-

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jured in the blast — literally picked up the pieces of the artillery round and moved on.

The platoon didn't have time to dwell on the incident; the patrol schedule wouldn't allow it.

"We've still got to continue doing patrols," said Pfc. John Howell, a machine gunner on the Humvee closest to the explosion. "So that takes priority."

But just because there were no physical injuries does not mean the soldiers were not affected by the explosion. Army officials know soldiers can be rattled by the blasts, and their performance

"Early on we kept a big eye on" the soldiers on patrol after a bomb went off, said Company B 1st Sgt. Freddy Krail. "[Roadside bombs] are not a common thing, but they've happened before."

Now, he said, the unit, deployed to Iraq from Fort Hood, Texas, relies on the noncommissioned officers at the platoon level to notify leaders if any problems develop. They have the closest day-to-day interaction with the junior soldiers and will best notice any

"[If they say] the soldier needs to talk to someone about it, we trust their instincts," Krail said.

changes in them

Many of the soldiers let Tuesday's bombing pass without much discussion. That patrol is over and they had another to run less than eight hours.

"I really don't talk about it unless someone brings it up," said Spc. George Ernie.

When the soldiers do talk about similar incidents, the discussion ranges from casual to cautious.



ASON CHUDY/Stars and Stripes

Pvt. Richard Martinez of Company B, 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, holds up three pieces of a 152 mm artillery round that blew up alongside of his patrol recently. None of the soldiers were injured nor were any of their vehicles damazed.

"Nobody jokes about it," said did Ernie. The stakes are too high to take the bombs too lightly.

Company B has not suffered a casualty to a roadside bomb, Krail said. "I think not having had a casualty yet has lent itself to the soldiers not being happy (about being possible targets], but not being fearful about traveling "The insung to the soldiers and the soldiers and the soldiers are the soldiers and the soldiers are th

through their sectors," he said.

That evening another patrol — with mostly the same soldiers as the early morning run — went out to that same area. The soldiers

didn't dwell on the chance of there being another bomb. "The possibility of one being

"The possibility of one being out there is always there," said Ernie. "It's not something we really think about."

The soldiers just hope that they make it safely through their remaining tour in Iraq.

"The insurgents only have to be lucky once," said Sgt. Michael Wilbanks. "We have to be lucky every day. That's the unfortunate

E-mail Jason Chudy at: chudyj@mail.estripes.osd.mil



IN THE STATES

Snow pounds Calif. as Ohio faces flooding

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Another winter blast spread rain and heavy snow across California on Saturday as residents of waterlogged areas that were stripped by wildfires braced for flash flooding and mudelidae

As much as 6 feet of snow was possible during the weekend in the northern Sierra Nevada, delighting skiers, while homeowners rushed to pile sandbags in Southern California, where some neighborhoods below the San Bernardino Mountains east of Los Angeles received more than a half-inch of rain every hour.

"I used to love the rain," said Dallas Branscone of San Bernardino County's Devore area. "Now, I dread all these storms."

In the East, heavy rain and snow that fell earlier in the week caused flooding along the Ohio River that was chasing some residents out of their homes in communities in West Virginia, Ohio and Kentucky. Meteorologists predicted the river would reach its highest level in eight years at Louisville, Ky.

The stormy weather had caused widespread power outages in parts of Ohio, and utilities said about 100,000 homes and businesses remained without electricity on Saturday.

California's latest storm arrived Thursday and wasn't expected to let up until Monday, the National Weather Service said.

The wild weather knocked out power for thousands of homes and businesses and blocked mountain roads. One person died in a sailboat smashed by wind and waves and two resort workers in the Sierra were found dead in a snow-covered car.



Homeowners were especially concerned in San Bernardino County foothill towns that were devastated by wildfires and mudslides in 2003.

"You can only do so much," said Thom Master of Devore. "If 2 feet of mud comes, these little sandbags aren't going to do much"

Along the Ohio River, hundreds of Ohio and West Virginia residents had evacuated their homes and stacked sandbags.

The river was nearly 4 feet above flood stage and still rising Saturday morning at Point Pleasant, W.Va., and was about 7 feet above flood stage but beginning to recede at Marietta, Ohio, the National Weather Service said. Downstream, it was expected to crest Tuesday at slightly more than 5 feet above at Cincinnati, the weather service said.

Water was 2 to 4 feet deep Saturday in

businesses.

Louisville had already closed part of its Kiver Road and installed two of its flood gates, and the Caesars Indiana riverboat casino in Harrison County, Ind., was shut down. The expected 28-foot crest at Louisville, 5 feet over flood stage, would be the highest since the March 1997 flood.

People who live along the Ohio learn to cope with its floods.

"The first thing I do before I go is clean the fireplace," said Sherry Welch of Juniper Beach, Ky, who had friends helping her pack furniture into a truck Friday. "If you don't do that, water will come in and leave a ring all around the inside of your house like a great big ring around a bathtub"

tub."
"One year I had to move three times," she said as water lapped at the edge of her



AP photos

Above: As a new round of storms hit the Sierra and Lake Tahoe, motorist Jesse Syfert tightens the chains on his car Friday in Meyers, Callf., before heading over Echo Summit on U.S. Highway 50 to the Bay Area. Left: Marietta City Auditor Sharon Adams makes her way past sandbags on Friday, as floodwaters closed in on downtown businesses in Marietta, Ohio.

Chemical threat from S.C. train wreck lingers

BY JENNIFER HOLLAND

The Associated Press

GRANITEVILLE, S.C. — Toxic vapors from one of the nation's deadliest chemical spills in years will keep residents out of their homes until at least early next week as cleanup crews try to stop chlorine gas from leaking out of a wrecked train car.

At least eight people died and more than 250 were sickened after a freight train carrying the gas crashed early Thursday near a textile mill. The accident unleashed a greenish-yellow fog that seared people's eyes and lungs.

About 5,400 residents within a one-mile radius of the crash were forced to evacuate, with authorities telling people Friday they would not be allowed to return until Tuesday at earliest. A dusk-to-dawn curfew was imposed within two miles of the wreck for fear that cool night air would cause the chlorine to settle close to the ground.

Authorities said all the deaths appeared to have been caused by the plume of gas that settled over its victims in their homes, their cars and the Avondale Mills textile plant. One of the dead was spotted by Gov. Mark Sanford, who flew over the site to survey the wreckage.

Two nine-member crews were working around the clock to apply a steel patch over a fist-sized hole in the train, said Aiken County Sheriff's Lt. Michael Frank. The work could take until late Saturday.

Workers also were to begin removing chlorine from two additional railroad tankers involved in the crash.

The accident happened about 2:40 a.m. Thursday when a Norfolk Southern freight

Chlorine gas cleanup

STAY AWAY: Toxic vapors from a deadly chemical spill will keep about 5,400 residents out of their homes until at least early next week.

WHAT NOW?: Environmental cleanup workers are trying to patch a hole in a freight train carrying chlorine gas that crashed early Thursday. FALLOUT: At least eight people died

FALLOUT: At least eight people died and more than 250 were sickened when the crash unleashed a greenish-yellow fog that smelled powerfully like bleach.

- The Associated Press

train carrying 42 cars struck a parked train at a crossing next to the plant, where

400 workers were on the night shift making denim and other fabrics.

Monica Channey, 29, heard the boom at home when the trains collided but thought

home when the trains collided but thought nothing of it at first. "It's always something with the trains or with the mill," she said.

But when authorities came to evacuate her and her 12-year-old son and 10-year-old daughter, she bundled the children un "like mummies."

Channey had a scarf covering her mouth but could still smell the chlorine. "The fumes were like 'whoosh' — a bad ammonia, stronger than any cleaning solution," she said. "It took my breath away."

Five workers died at the mill. A man was found dead in a truck near the plant. Another man was found dead in his home. The train engineer died at a hospital.

Federal officials were investigating the cause of the wreck, but most officials were kept out of the area because of the toxic gas.



Sgt. David Turno, left, with the Aiken County Department of Public Safety, suits up Friday near the command center in Aiken, S.C. He was preparing to go into Graniteville to conduct a door-to-door search of homes near the train-crash site.

State and federal environmental officials have continued conducting air quality tests, finding either low levels or nothing at all a couple blocks away from the site. The crash site levels were higher.

"How high? We are not sure," state Department of Health and Environmental Control spokesman Thom Berry said. The levels exceed the monitor's limits. he said.

2005 shaping up as hectic year for Supreme Court

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court returns Monday with an ailing leader, pressure to rule quickly on the constitutionality of federal prison sentences and a slew of contentious issues to decide, from medical marijuana to Ten Commandment displays.

The most immediate concern is the health of Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist, who was diagnosed with thyroid cancer in October. He has been working part time at the court for more than two weeks but still is too ill to return to the bench.

At 80, Rehnquist already was considered a top retirement prospect on a court that has had no turnover in a decade a record.

Besides Rehnquist, Justices John Paul Stevens, 84, and Sandra Day O'Connor, 74, are considered possibilities to leave this year.

In upcoming cases, justices could rule as early as this week on whether the longtime system for sentencing federal defendants should be thrown out because it lets judges, rather than juries, decide factors that add years to prison time. Many judges have delayed sentencines while awaiting the high court's

Other major cases involve whether states can execute juvenile killers, whether the federal government can prosecute people who use marijuana medicinally, and whether states can bar interstate wine sales over the Internet.

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Pitt, Aniston call it quits

Actors officially separate

BY JOHN ROGERS

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Brad Pitt and Jennifer Aniston have finally made official what was rumored for months — Hollywood's A-List couple is splitting up.

"We would like to announce that after seven years together, we have decided to formally separate," the couple said in a joint statement released Friday by Pitt's publicist, Cindy Guagenti.

"For those who follow these sorts of things, we would like to explain that our separation is not the result of any speculation reported by the tabloid media. This decision is the result of much thoughtful consideration."

The couple didn't indicate if they planned to divorce, and Guagenti declined to comment beyond the statement, which also said, "We happily remain committed and caring friends with great love and admiration for one another."

The separation comes 4½ years after the pair's storybook wedding and after months of tabloid speculation that their marriage was in trouble.

In their statement, they asked for the public's "sensitivity in the coming months."

Pitt, 41, and Aniston, 35, have been together since

Pitt, 41, and Aniston, 35, have been together since being set up on a blind date in 1998. They were married in a lavish wedding on July 29, 2000, on a Malibu estate overlooking the Pacific Ocean.

Until rumors began swirling that they were about to split, there were near-constant tabloid rumors that Aniston was pregnant. The actress had told People in 2002 that she and Pitt eventually wanted to



Brad Pitt and his wife, Jennifer Aniston, arrive for a screening of the film "Troy" at the Cannes Film Festival in France last year. Pitt and Aniston have split. Pitt's longtime publicist confirmed Friday.

Sen. Clinton's former finance aide indicted

BY LARRY MARGASAK The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The finance director for Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton's 2000 campaign is charged in a federal indictment with intentionally understating contributions for a Hollywood fund-raising gala for the senator.

The four-count indictment, unsealed Friday in Los Angeles, charged David Rosen with filing false reports with the Federal Election Commission.

The charges focus on an Aug. 12, 2000, dinner and concert supported by more than \$1.1 million in "in-kind contributions" — goods and services provided for free or below cost. The event was estimated to cost more than \$1.2

The FBI previously said in court papers that it had evidence the former first lady's campaign deliberately understated its fund-raising costs so it would have more money to spend on her campaign.

While the event cost more than \$1.2 million, the indictment alleged, Rosen reported contributions of about \$400,000, knowing the figure to be false.

The indictment charged that he provided some documents to a FEC compliance officer but withheld the true costs of the event and provided false documents to substantiate the lower figure.

In one instance, Rosen obtained and delivered a fraudulent

invoice stating the cost of a concert associated with the gala was \$200,000 when he know that figure was false, according to the indictment. The actual cost of the concert was more than \$600,000.

Each of the four counts of making a false statement carries a maximum penalty of up to five years in prison and up to \$250,000 in fines upon conviction.

Rosen's attorney, Paul Mark Sandler, did not return a call asking for comment. Clinton's lawyer on campaign finance matters, David Kendali, said: "The Senate Campaign Committee has fully cooperated with the investigation. Mr. Rosen worked hard for the campaign, and we trust that when all the facts are in, he will be cleared."

The businessman who hosted the event, Peter Paul, has told federal authorities that it cost more than \$1 million and that he had been surprised when he saw that most of the contributions were not reported.

The money from the fund-raiser went to Clinton's successful campaign for a Senate seat from New York, the Democrats' national Senate campaign organization and a state Democratic Party

committee.

The joint fund raising made the rules more complicated because the gala raised both "hard money" – funds given to candidates subject to federal limits – and "soft money" that was unregulated and unlimited under the former cammain finance law.

JFK's sister Rosemary, 86, dies at Wis. hospital

By LOLITA C. BALDOR
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — While Rosemary Kennedy spent much of her life shielded from the public eye, her struggles with mental retardation inspired her sister to encourage millions of mentally disabled athletes to publicly celebrate their differences.

Kennedy, the oldest sister of President John F. Kennedy and the inspiration for the Special Olympics, died Friday. She was 86.

Kennedy, the third child of Rose and Joseph Kennedy, was born mentally retarded and underwent a lobotomy when she was 23. She lived most of her life in a Jefferson, Wis., institution, the St. Coletta School for Exceptional Children. She died at Fort Atkinson Memo-

rial Health Hospital in Wisconsin with her brother Sen. Edward M. Kennedy and her sisters by her side, the family said in a statement. "Rosemary was a lifelong jewel

"Rosemary was a lifelong jewel to every member of our family," the statement said. "From her earliest years, her mental retardation was a continuing inspiration to each of us and a powerful source of our family's commitment to do all we can to help all persons with disabilities live full and productive lives."

Rosemary Kennedy's condition became an inspiration to her

younger sister, Eunice Kennedy Shriver, who founded the Special Olympics for mentally disabled athletes, and in 1984 she took over her sister's care after their mother had a stroke.

mother had a stroke.

Rosemary's retardation became public in 1960, just after her brother John was elected president. The National Association for Retarded Children mentioned in a publication that the president-elect "has a mentally retarded sister who is in an institution in Wisconsin."

Born Rose Marie Kennedy on Sept 13, 1918, in Boston, she was known as Rosemary or Rosie to friends and family. In her own diaries before the lobotomy, she chronicled a life of tea dances, dress fittings, trips to Europe and a visit to the Rosewelt White House

But as she got older, her father worried his daughter's mild condition would lead her into situations that could damage the family's reputation.

"Rosemary was a woman, and there was a dread fear of pregnancy, disease and disgrace," author Laurence Leamer wrote in an unauthorized Kennedy biography.

Doctors told Joseph Kennedy that a lobotomy would help his daughter and calm her mood

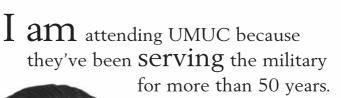
Rosemary lived in several private institutions before her father placed her in St. Coletta, an hour west of Milwaukee.

First family shows off newest member

million



President Bush and first lady Laura Bush show off their new puppy, a Scottish terrier named Miss Beazley on the South Lauro of the Withe House's navel afternoon. The White House's new resident was a gift to Mrs. Bush from the president for her S8th birthday in November, but the 10-week-old puppy had to wait this week to move in. Although Scottish terriers are often aggressive with other dogs, there appeared to be no animosity between Miss Beazley and the older first dog, Barney, whose half brother is Miss Beazley's father. Barney gave his younger companion a few good snifts, but they mostly reamed the grass and ignored each other — and the first tady's calls for them to come. "Behaves like Barney," the president said of the new pooch, recalling Barney's habit of ligoning commands for mit be president.



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REDSXWIN sparks rush on vanity plates

BY GLENN ADAMS
The Associated Press

AUGUSTA, Maine — New Englanders, almost as fond of their vanity license plates as they are of chowdah, lobstah and their beloved Boston Red Sox, are proclaiming pride in the World Series champions with car-bumper messages that drive the point home.

sages that drive the point nome.

Some are a bit in-your-face,
such as WE WIN and VCTORY.
Others are a little more subtle,
such as ESRUCO4, a Mainer's way
of spelling out the reverse of the
Curse. Others elated to see the
Bambino's hex lifted asked for
CURSE-NO and 1918+RIP.

The Red Sox had barely completed their four-game World Series sweep over the St. Louis Cardinals on Oct. 27 before the orders started coming in to Maine's Bureau of Motor Vehicles, Maine offi-

cials said.

"Within hours of the final out in Game 4 of the World Series, requests for Red Sov. related wants

quests for Red Sox-related vanity plates began to arrive," said then-Secretary of State Dan Gwadosky. The BMV received more than 60 requests by the time a Nov. 9 order was submitted for plate production.

"Dozens of additional requests have been received since. The total probably exceeds 100 at this point, and counting," said Gwadosky, whose term was to end Friday.

One motorist requested FEN-WAY, the venerable old ballpark that's home of the world champs. Variations from feminine Sox fanatics sought the monikers FNWY-CHK, BSTN-GRL and SOX CHIK. Another request seeks to identify a Mainer as part of a larger realm, RDSXNTN, or Red Sox Nation for the uninitiated.

Joyce McKenney's plate, SXWIN04, turned out to be confusing to some non-sports fans, who ask why it says "sex, wino, four," the Richmond, Maine, resident said.

"Sports people, they love it. They think it's awesome," said McKenney, who watches every Red Sox game on TV or listens on the radio. "It's people who have no clue about sports who sit there and scratch their heads."

Another Maine fan's request for OREDSOX reflects the sweet satisfaction of a series championship after a seemingly endless 86-year wait — or maybe it's just an Irish spin on the team's name.

Fans who don't want anyone to forget that sweep over St. Louis ordered SOXIN4 and REDSOX-4.

A dozen Rhode Islanders asked for Red Sox vanity plates after the team's first World Series championship since 1918, said Nancy Tracy of the state's DMV. Some of their requests are RDSXFN, RDSXO4, WE WIN and VCTORY.

The rush for Red Sox vanity plates was not nearly so intense in their home state, where only eight were ordered after the series.

Fans craving to identify with their heroes seemed more interested in buying state-issue specialty Red Sox plates that raise money for children's cancer research, said Rob Creedon, spokesman for the Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles.

"Our numbers kind of spiked after the playoffs," said Creedon. Massachusetts drivers mostly asked for a variation of the team's name. such as RZOXO4 and



Avid Red Sox baseball fan Joyce McKenney of Richmond, Maine — who is wearing an anti-New York Yankees baseball cap — poses by her vanity plate Thursday.

SAWX04, while one sought to display the number worn by pitcher Curt Schilling and asked for

Vermonters were ahead of the game and had snapped up the obvious slogans long before the Red Sox ended their long World Series drought, said Motor Vehicles Commissioner Bonnie Rutledge.

"We already had some vanity plates related to Red Sox, but they've been out there for quite a while," said Rutledge. "We've had none since they won." In Connecticut, there's no way to tell how many Sox fans paid extra for vanity plates commemorating the World Series champs, motor vehicle spokesman Bill Seymour said.

"There are too many possibilities that could be associated with that," Seymour said.

Connecticut motorists can display plates that benefit Long Island Sound, child safety and pet care, but the state has no official license plate honoring the Red Sox. Massachusetts has its Red Sox "Jimmy Fund" plates. In Maine, a bill submitted to the Legislature seeks a special Red Sox plate.

Officials in New Hampshire's motor vehicle agency didn't return phone calls.

The Granite State is among those with an online service through which motorists can see if the vanity plates they choose are already taken.

Interest in Red Sox vanity plates isn't limited to New England.

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Study: Preemies often develop disabilities

More than half of 'miracle babies' are at risk for long-term problems

BY STEPHANIE NANO The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Tiny "miracle babies" make for heartwarming stories, but the reality is that nearly half of all infants born extremely premature have significant learning and physical disabilities by the time they reach schol age, the largest such study found.

Medical advances have allowed doctors to save earlier and smaller babies. While some developmental problems are known to be common among such children, the long-term consequences were not entirely clear.

"We needed to have some idea of really what this group was like when they grew up." said one of the researchers, Dr. Neil Marlow, a neonatologist at the University of Nottingham in England.

Guidelines call for not resuscitating the most severely premuture babies, but where to draw the line is a controversial and emotional decision. The study's findings may help guide doctors and parents about whether it is wise to use heroic measures.

"Parents need to go into this situation with their eyes wide open and with an open dialogue with their doctors as to what they should do," Marlow said.

Normal pregnancy is 37 to 42 weeks. Marlow and his colleagues looked at 241 children

Preterm and disability linked

According to a recent study, nearly half of all infants born extremely premature have significantly more learning and physical disabilities by the time they reach school age than their classroom peers.

Extremely preterm
Full term

Mild disability

34% 18%

Moderate disability

Severe disability

SOURCE: New England Journal of Medicine

about 6 years old who had been born between 22 and 25 weeks. They found that 46 percent had severe or moderate disabilities such as cerebral palsy, vision or hearing loss and learning problems; 34 percent were mildly disabled; and 20 percent had no disabilities. Twelve percent had disabiling cerebral palsy.



MARCH OF DIM

Navy Anderson is seen Nov. 11, 1997, at University of Utah Hospital in Salt Lake City in an incubator, one week after being born prematurely.

"This gives for the first time a real picture of what happens to these children who are at the limits of viability," said another researcher, Dieter Wolke of the University of Bristol in England. Their findings are reported in

Thursday's New England Journal of Medicine.

The rate of premature births in

the United States has crept up in recent years, in part because of a rise in multiple births and older mothers.

"It's important to realize that prematurity is a major public

health problem. One in eight babies are born prematurely," said Dr. Scott Berns of the March of Dimes.

The British researchers tracked all extremely premature births in Britain and Ireland over a 10-month period in 1995. Of those who were born live, only a quarter survived and eventually went home from the hospital —1 percent of those born at 22 weeks; 12 percent at 23 weeks; 26 percent at 24 weeks; and 44 percent at 25 weeks.

The surviving children were

tested at 2½ years, and about a quarter had severe disabilities. They were evaluated again at about 6 years.

Standard intelligence tests showed 21 percent of them had moderate or severe learning disabilities. That figure rose to 41 percent when compared to the test scores of a group of similar classmates who were born at full term.

In an accompanying editorial, Drs. Betty Vohr of Women and Infants Hospital in Providence, R.I., and Marilee Allen of Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, said the study shows the limits of what medicine can do.

They cited publicity about "miracle babies" as one reason parents might seek to have their very premature child resuscitated

Last month, a Chicago hospital said a premature infant born at 8.6 ounces is believed to be the smallest baby to survive.

"We wish they all were little miracle babies, but they're not," Vohr said in an interview.

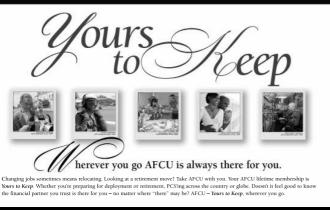
Jamie Anderson of Logan, Utah, had to make a quick decision right before her twins were born at 23 weeks in 1997. She decided to have them resuscitated, although she knew the chances of survival were low and there was

a risk of disabilities.

Her son, born at 507 grams (1 pound, 2 ounces), died within hours. Her daughter, Navy, who was 620 grams (1 pound, 6 ounces), endured four months of operations and blood transfusions before going home from the hospital

"We were fortunate to have one survive, but we know what it's like to lose one," said Anderson, who will be sharing her experience as a March of Dimes ambassador this year.

As for her now 7-year-old daughter, Anderson said she is doing great with no complications and recently passed two milestones: learning to read and ride a two-wheel bike.



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Hiking style dictates benefits

BY MARILYNN MARCHIONE The Associated Press

The Associated Fress

NEW ORLEANS — If exercise is too much of an uphill battle, you may want to try the downside.

A novel study of hikers in the Alps made the intriguing discovery that different types of exercise had different effects on fats and sugars in the blood.

Going uphill cleared fats from the blood faster, going downhill reduced blood sugar more, and hiking either way lowered bad cholesterol.

Both types of hiking are beneficial, but one may help diabetics more than the other, said Dr. Heinz Drexel of the Academic Teaching Hospital of Feldkirch, Austria, who reported the research at a recent American Heart Association conference in New Orleans.

His was a most unusual study, involving steep mountains and lifts at a ski resort.

"If you think about this in practical terms, it's pretty hard to imagine how any human being could just go one way and get back to where they started unless they happen to live near a cable car, which was used in this study," said Dr. Raymond Gibbons, a cardiologist at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn, who had no role in the research.

esearch.

Still, Dr. Gerald Fletcher, a cardiologist at the Mayo

Clinic in Jacksonville, Fla., said the findings could be applied in the real world: People who work in office buildings, for example, could take the stairs one way and the elevator the other, depending on what their exercise goals

Hiking uphill is concentric exercise, where muscles are shortened, which happens when you bend your arm or step upward.

Going downhill is eccentric muscle work, such as extending your arm or actively resisting stretching, which happens when you step down.

The Austrian researchers tested both forms of exercise on 45 healthy people who normally exercised very little. For the study, the participants took three to five hourlong hikes each week. For two months they hiked uphill and rode the ski lift down. The next two months they took the lift up and hiked down.

Their blood sugar and cholesterol levels were checked before the study started and after each two-month exercise segment. They also were given tests to see how quickly and well their blood removed fats and sugar after each exercise phase.

The hikers made no changes in their diets, so that the effects of the exercise could be isolated.

This could be good news for diabetics, who often have trouble with concentric and many types of aerobic exercise, Drexel said.



Hikers make their way on one of the Viennese hiking paths in Vienna, Austria, in November. A study of hikers in the Alps made the intriguing discovery that different types of exercise had different effects on fats and sugars in the blood. Going uphill cleared fats from the blood faster; going downhill reduced blood sugar more, and either way lowered bad cholesterol.

Theaters welcome babies to special movie screenings

BY MELISSA MANSFIELD

The Associated Press

RHINEBECK, N.Y. — Monte Romero sat on his mother's lap, looking up at the movie playing on the big screen and chomping on popcorn. After a few moments, he rubbed his eyes, hopped back out into the aisle and went exploring. The 2-year-old stopped and shouted, "Go!" while pointing to the screen, then returned to his mother.

Nobody shushed him. No rolled eyes or piercing stares accused Monte's mother, Marika, of ruining "Guerrilla: The Taking of Patty Hearst" by bringing along a toddler.

"See why you can't bring him to the mall?" Marika said, scooping him up onto her lap again. "He gets very excited."

The Romeros were at a "Bring Your Own Baby" movie at Upstate Films. Joining small movie houses and national theater chains, the Rhinebeck theater has begun to show special screenings just for parents and children.

The first-run films are the same ones the theater offers the rest of the week. Patrons can pick up a bottle of ginger ale or root beer, a homemade cookie or pop-corn with real butter. When the movie starts, the lights dim, but do not turn off entirely. The soundtrack is loud enough to hear, soft enough for babies to sleep through.

Marika Romero recalled bringing Monte to a recent screening of "Ray," about music legend Ray Charles, at a regular theater. She hoped he would sleep if he got bored.

"Once the first band started, he

went 'Drums, mama! Drums!' '

The two spent the rest of the movie outside with the carpet sweepers.

"I do miss the big screen," she sighed, as she waited for the matinee to start.

Upstate Films has shown three "Bring Your Own Baby" movies so far, with hopes of continuing the program through the next year.

Parents pay regular matinee admission; the babies get in for free.

"The people who come are really happy," said Steve Leiber, who co-founded the nonprofit arts organization with his wife Dede in 1972. "There is no one to say 'Shh-hh... be quiet."

Leiber heard of other theaters with matinees for moms, and wanted to try it. 'It gives us a chance to get the people who were moviegoers" before they had children.

Midwestern chain Kerasotes Theatres holds "Matinee Movie Magic for Moms (and Dads)" weekly at four of its 75 theaters, featuring a stroller valet outside the theater to help accommodate the new parents.

Loews Cineplex Entertainment launched a program called "Reel Moms" three years ago, and now operates in 20 cities. Loews' spokesman John McCauley said, "The moms are also able to be very current, seeing the latest movies."

Many of the moms who contact the company say they feel isolated after having children and it helps to interact with other new parents in a social setting.

"We get to bring moms together, going through the same life stage," he said.



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Earhart's stepson plans to search anew

Company plans to launch expedition for vanished aviator this spring

BY LIZ DOUP South Florida Sun-Sentinel

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. - The world loves a mystery, and Amelia Earhart's is a classic.

Nearly 68 years ago, America's fearless female flier took off from a Miami airstrip and vanished in the Pacific on a flight around the world

Now, a Maine-based ocean exploratory company plans to launch an expedition this spring looking for Earhart's plane

You can understand if Earhart's stepson George Putnam Jr., feels as if he has flown this course before. Searchers have sporadically looked for Earhart's Lockheed Elec-tra since it disappeared July 2, 1937, near Howland Island, a spit of land in the Pacific Ocean, about halfway between Australia and Hawaii.

Over the years, more than 100 books movies and documentaries have mined the unfinished story of her remarkable life and her mysterious death. She offered pride and hope to a country crippled by the Great Depression. In the '20s and '30s, when many women didn't even drive a car, Earhart set records in the sky

Putnam - 16 when his stepmother disappeared — would like to see Earhart's story completed. And at 83, he'd like to see that

happen soon.
At his Boynton Beach, Fla., home, the genial Putnam, with a thatch of gray hair and an easy smile, recalls a swirl of unproven stories that surround Earhart's disappear-

She was part of an espionage mission, spying on the Japanese. She ran off with Fred Noonan, her navigator. She landed on a nearby island and died there.

Putnam has his own take on what hap-pened to the woman who took him flying And his isn't so dramatic or intriguing



George Putnam, 83, of Boynton Beach, Fla., is Amelia Earhart's stepson. A new expedition is searching for Earhart's lost plane. At Putnam's desk is a reprint of the July 5, 1937, Chicago Herald and Examiner with headlines about the search for Earhart.

Says Putnam, matter of factly, "The plane ran out of gas Longtime friend Elgen Long, who'll be

part of the search expedition, shares Putnam's belief. Earhart and Noonan had 22,000 miles be-

hind them when they took off from Papua New Guinea and were headed to Howland Island to refuel

Only 7,000 miles remained in her goal: to be the first woman to fly around the world. At the time, she was three weeks shy of her 40th birthday.

Using records that detailed air speed and weather conditions, Long charted her course across the Pacific. She ran into one

fatal problem; headwinds stronger than she She thought she had four extra hours of gas," Long says. "The headwinds changed

Among her last radio messages: " ... gas running low. Been unable [to] reach you by

In 2002, Long joined an underwater search for Earhart's plane led by Nauticos, the same company behind the current ven

Waterloo

ture. Mechanical failure ended that search

Now they plan to continue their search using sophisticated sonar equipment to sweep 1,000 square miles of the ocean's floor northwest of Howland Island. Estimated cost: \$1.5 million.

Long believes the plane is in water near-ly four miles below the ocean's surface, so ep the temperature is near freezing

"It's like putting something in the deep freeze," he says. At the time Earhart and Noonan disap-peared, the U.S. government launched a

search that covered 250,000 square miles of ocean, but no trace of the plane was Today's intricate equipment - even bet-

ter than the tools that helped pinpoint the Titanic, Long says — gives searchers a better chance If they do find anything, Putnam hopes it

will make its way into a museum for all to see. He understands that the amazing Amelia belonged to the world.

"She was a role model to women. What she did took courage and stamina." he says. Putnam's father, part of the Putnam pub-lishing family, was Earhart's promoter be-

fore they were married. His mother was also a maverick who trav-eled the globe and liked adventure. Initial-

ly, at least, Earhart and his mother, Dorhv. were friends. Putnam, only 10 when his parents' mar-

riage broke up, doesn't remember any marital turmoil. And he liked Earhart, "who was always nice to me. Putnam remembers his father's efforts to

find his wife, long after the official search ended. In his desperate search, he offered cash rewards for information and was victimized by hoaxes

"If they can find the plane, it would wipe out all the oddball stories," Putnam says. "Finally, it would all be put to rest."

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Queen Victoria's gunmaker opens first shop in America

BY GAIL SCHONTZLER Bozeman Daily Chronicle

ROZEMAN Mont - English gunmaker Westley Richards made pistols and rifles that the British Army fired at Napoleon at

Since then, the firm, founded in 1812, has made fine hunting guns and rifles for Queen Victoria, the maharajahs of India and the famed safari hunters of Africa, So it's no wonder that people around Bozeman weren't quite sure what to make of it when the U.S. agent for the venerable gunmaker opened its only store in America

"By the time Lewis and Clark published their journals, Westley Richards had published four cata-" said Jim Kilday, a partner in Westley Richards Agency USA.

The Westley Richards store itself has walls adorned with trophies of gazelle, greater kudu and long-necked gerenuk. It sells Courteney boots and shoes made in Zimbahwe from the hides of cape buffalo, ostrich and hippopot-

And its four safes hold firearms worth more than \$1 million.

Kilday, 62, and his son, Kevin, 33, the agency's general manager, talked recently about why they have brought the romance of fine English firearms to the wilds of

It was a childhood dream come true, Jim Kilday said, when the opportunity arose a year ago to go into business with the Clode family, which has operated Westley Ri chards in England for nearly 50

They considered making their headquarters in Ireland or Italy or a major American city, Kilday said. "We picked Bozeman, because Bozeman is paradise - one of the great undiscovered places.

Ninety percent of their business of buying and selling firearms is done over the Internet. And their clients, many of them sportsmen from places like Texas and California, already like to travel to Bozeman to fish and hunt.

The Bozeman agency imports firearms from England and trades hundreds of used guns, which can sell for as much as \$85,000, for a 15 percent consignment fee.

Westley Richards is the oldest of the big three English makers of fine guns, James Purdey & Sons having been founded in 1814 and Holland & Holland in 1835.

Today the English company builds just 50 new firearms a year.

IN THE WORLD

Visitors complicate aid as toll passes 150,000

BY JOCELYN GECKER

The Associated Press

BANDA ACEH, Indonesia — Rescue workers extracted thousands of corpses from the mud and debris of tsunami-devastated coastal towns in Indonesia, pushing the rising death toll from the Asian disaster past 150,000 on Saturday.

Two weeks after walls of water flattened wide swaths of Indonesia's Sumatra island, people were still emerging from isolated villages, looking hungry and haunted. Staggered by the scale of the disaster, aid officials described plans to feed as many as 2 million survivors a day for six months.

Two Indonesian navy amphibious vessels pulled up on the beach Saturday among the wreckage of smashed boats. Hundreds of refugees lined up on the beach to go inside and unload supplies in Calang, where the stunami killed 80 percent of the residents. The Indonesian military set up two field hospitals, one with 50 beds, the other with 20.

"The tragedy was terrible, but considering this, the survivors here now are in pretty good shape," said Dr. Steve Wignall, an American who works for Family Health International and was making an on-the-ground assessment with several other aid

In other areas, victims were more vulnerable, though health officials said there were no signs yet of major outbreaks of diseases that they have feared.

As aid poured into a region long troubled by separatist violence, Indonesian soldiers resumed patrols in Aceh province searching for rebels. Skirmishes are stoking fears the conflict could hamper the relief effort by dozens of international aid groups.

Problems persisted in coordinating the humanitar-

ian efforts. Aid groups complained that dignitaries flying in to see the devastation have choked the tiny main airport and hampered relief supplies.

Visits by U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan and U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell shut Banda Aceh's airport temporarily for security reasons.

"It slows things down," said Maj. Murad Khan, a spokesman for Pakistan's Tsunami Relief Task Force.

U.S. officials disputed the allegation, saying Powell's plane took off immediately after dropping him off Wednesday so it wouldn't be in the way. He toured the area by helicopter, and Tim Gerhardson, a spokesman for the U.S. Embassy in Jakarta, said aid shimments continued to flow durine that time.

A delegation of U.S. congressmen traveled to Banda Aceh later Saturday. They came by helicopter from the USS Abraham Lincoln aircraft carrier so they wouldn't disrupt other flights.

Annan toured a town in Sri Lanka where hundreds of shoppers at an outdoor weekly market were swept to their deaths, but reluctantly agreed to a government request to bypass stricken areas controlled by Tamil Tiger rebels.

The Tigers, who have fought a 20-year war for Tamil independence from the Sinhalese-dominated south, invited Annan to tour the northern province. But government officials said they couldn't guarantee Annan's safety there.

"I'm concerned about everyone with need in the

"I'm concerned about everyone with need in the humanitarian situation," Annan said. "But I'm also a guest of the government, and we'll go where we agreed we'll go."

With volunteers and rescue workers reaching more remote areas, still more dead were found. Indonesian authorities raised their death toll estimate by nearly 3,000 to more than 100,000 and braced for tens of thousands more homeless than it expected.



Passing a tug boat washed up on a road by the massive tsunamis, a young girl carries supplies back to her village Saturday, just outside the capital of Aceh province in northwest Indonesia. The only road linking coastal cities on Sumatra was turned into an obstacle course by the tsunamis. complicating aid deliveries.

'An entirely different mission'

U.S. Marines help clear debris in Sri Lanka

BY CHRISTOPHER TORCHIA The Associated Press

HIKKADUWA, Sri Lanka — Lt. Col. Edmund Bowen is a seasoned Marine who has served in the Persian Gulf and Somalia. But he now finds himself playing the role of peacetime aid worker in Sri Lanka's tsunami-ravaged areas.

"This is a stable country. This is an entirely different mission," said Bowen, one of 54 Marines clearing debris Saturday near this tourist town in southern Sri Lanka. None carried weapons or wore body armor. Instead of hel-

mets, they donned caps.
The crew, based in Okinawa,
Japan, is among 250 Marines sent
by the 9th Engineer Support Battailon to take part in the massive
relief effort in southern Sri
Lanka. The USS Duluth was expected to arrive in a day or two
with another 116 troops from the
15th Marine Expeditionary Unit,
Bowen said.

"Marines are compassionate. We fight by the laws of war. If we turn on our kinder side, we bring a tremendous amount of speed and capability to a relief operation." Bowen said.

gional effort by the U.S. military, which is also flying supplies to survivors in Aceh, the Indonesian province near the epicenter of the quake that triggered the tsunami.

On Saturday, Bowen and his crew chose to start work in the village of Pitiwella, which lost 16 of its 150 residents to the waves. Photographs, fishing nets, bicy-

Photographs, fishing nets, bicycle wheels and slabs of concrete lay in the sand, as former residents watched the American bulldozer lumber over piles of rubble.

"It's good that the Marines are here. The damage is so bad that we can't do it alone," said D.V. Chaturanga, who lost his grandmother and his home. Other bystanders agreed, saying the U.S. forces were welcome.

With the help of a translator, Bowen talked to the community leaders, who asked that the debris be moved closer to the shoreline. Bowen said it was unsafe, saying another big wave would fling the rubble. But he agreed to their request when villagers said they had no plans to rebuild their homes in the same place because the government had forbidden it.



Ragged survivors flock to Indonesian town

BY DENIS GRAY The Associated Press

CALANG. Indonesia - Not a single building is left standing in Calang, where the tsunami killed 80 percent of the residents

But the population is even higher now than before the disaster as weary survivors with little more than the clothes on their backs trudge in from the countryside

Two weeks after walls of water flattened wide swaths of Indonesia's Sumatra island, people still are emerging from isolated villages, looking hungry and haunted by their experience.

Calang used to be a government center, about 55 miles southeast of Banda Aceh, before the tsunami flattened it, so it has become a natural magnet for refugees. While they are finding little

80% of Calang population died but stragglers coming in more standing than in their home pre-tsunami population at 5,000, down when the helicopter landed.

more standing than in their home communities, the relief effort is

mushrooming here. Two Indonesian navy amphibious vessels were pulled up on the beach Saturday among the wreckage of smashed hoats. Hundreds of refugees lined up on the beach

to go inside and unload supplies. The Indonesian military has set up two field hospitals, one with 50 beds, the other with 20.

"The tragedy was terrible, but considering this, the survivors here now are in pretty good shape," said Dr. Steve Wignall, an American who works for Family Health International and was making an on-the-ground assessment with several other aid work-

estimated the town's

pre-tsunami population at 5,000, but it was virtually wiped off the man, and only about 1,000 people survived.

6.000 refugees have come in from isolated communities, and one group had just straggled in after walking 30 miles, he said

U.S. helicopter pilot Lt. Fred Morrison of Hatley, Pa., flew in directly from the carrier USS Abraham Lincoln to distribute 4,200 pounds of water in plastic containers to three different sites, including Calang, where the only thing left of the houses were the foundations

The second drop-off point was a small hillock set above what is now swampland. Refugees clinging to the outcrop came rushing down when the helicopter landed. The rest of the water went to a stretch of road that hadn't been destroyed by the tsunami where about 100 villagers have set up

As the chopper headed back to the Lincoln, the crew spotted about 20 people on a road frantically waving, so they made a steep descent. Overcoming the language barrier, the survivors made their hunger clear by pointing to their stomachs and mouths. With nothing left to give, the helicopter took off again, noting the lo-

'We're going to get water and food and return," said Petty Officer Sean Bascom of Moorpark, California

Helicopters from the Lincoln

around 14,000 pounds on some early days, even though the same number of helicopters are being used.

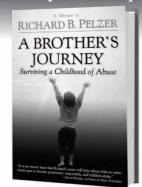
"We figured out how to do it better," said Lt. Rory Dupont, who was compiling figures at Banda Aceh airport as the helicopters took off.

At the end of the day, the helicopters were flying through monsoon rains and clouds.

The U.S. Navy said Saturday that 13,000 U.S. servicemembers are now in Indonesia and its wa-ters, along with 10 ships and

The U.S. military has assets in the whole affected region worth \$20 billion and is incurring \$5.6 million a day in operating costs, it

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Powell holds frank talk about AIDS with youths in Kenya

BY ANNE GEARAN The Associated Press

NAIROBI, Kenya - Promiscuity and other risky sexual behavior must change to stop the spread of AIDS in Africa, U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell

said Saturday.
Young Kenyans, including an 11-year-old girl, had a frank dis-cussion with Powell about promiscuity, resistance to condoms and the cultural expectation that young girls will have sex with much older men.

"Those sorts of patterns of behavior have to change to protect young people," Powell told the

Powell is in Africa to attend a ceremony north-south fighting in Sudan The two-decade-old conflict is Africa's longest-running civil war. Powell met with Kenyan President Mwai Kibaki after the AIDS round-table Saturday.

The Sudanese peace accord does not address the more recent fighting and refugee crisis in Sudan's western Darfur region, which Powell has called genocide. He planned to press Sudanese government leaders to resolve the Darfur crisis during the weekend meetings.

About 7 percent of adult Ken-yans are infected with HIV or have AIDS, a rate much higher than western nations but lower than some countries in southern Africa where 20 percent or more of the population is infected.

"Africa, I think, for too long a period of time ignored the problem, looked the other way and 'No, this isn't happening
'" Powell said.

He criticized African countries without naming them, that denied AIDS was a problem. Powell also noted former South African Presi-dent Nelson Mandela's disclosure this week that his son died of complications from AIDS.

"More and more people are



U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell talks to young Kenyans about HIV and AIDS in Nairobi on Saturday.

willing to speak out about this and not hide," Powell said. AIDS kills more than 600 peo-ple every day in South Africa. Mandela's successor, Thabo Mbeki, once denied knowing anyone who had died of the disease.

Powell sat in a circle with 19

Kenyans, most in their teens 20s, who work to prevent HIV transmission among their peers. The discussion included blunt discussion of sexual and cultural including practices, 24-year-old Boniface Mwendwa

described as social pressure for young women to have sex with people we call sugar daddies.

Older men are much more likely than young girls or women to carry the disease, and older men-to-younger-women is a major source of transmission in Kenya and elsewhere.

"Are you getting through to the young people, or do you say you're square?" Powell asked. Reception is better now than it used to be, Powell was told.

Abstinence, faithfulness to a single partner and condom use are discussed much more openly than a few years ago, and more Kenyans are open about their HIV status. At least one of the

young women who spoke to Pow-ell on Saturday is HIV positive. The anti-AIDS message starts early. Eleven-year-old Grace Gathoni is a member of the Brownie patrol at her elementary school. She came to the meeting dressed in her uniform.

"We learn about HIV and AIDS, and sexually transmitted diseases" at school, she said. "We are also taught to value our virginity, our education and our life

Rescuers dig through train wreck

14th body recovered from Italy train crash

The Associated Press

BOLGENINA DI CREVALCORE, Italy—Rescue workers on Saturday combed through the mangled remains of two trains that collided head-on in northern Italy, searching for bodies. A day after the crash, the death toll was at 14.

Fire department officials in Bologna said that several train cars were so baddy crushed and ripped apart that they had still been unable to thoroughly inspect them more than 24 hours after the crash on the line between Bologna and Verona.

Officials on Saturday discovered a 14th body, an unidentified man, the fire department said. Rescue workers did not rule out finding others and expected to continue the search for at least one more day.

The passenger train collided with a freight train Friday in heavy fog in a field in Bolognina di Crevalcore, north of Bologna.

The force of the crash left one carriage standing on end nearly perpendicular with the tracks.

Dozens of people were injured, most of them lightly. The ANSA news agency said that five people were still hospitalized Saturday.

Investigators were studying the possibility that

investigators were studying the possioniny ranone train failed to stop at a red light and wait for the other train to pass on a second track, news reports said. But a prosecutor in Bologna heading the investigation declined to comment on the report.

"We have not been able to verify any hypotheses with the information we have had from station records," Prosecutor Enrico Cieri told TG1 television pages.



Firefighters work around the wreckage of a passenger train that collided head-on with a freight train in Bolognina di Crevalcore, near Bologna, northern Italy, on Friday. Officials said at least 14 people died and many more were injured.

The Civil Defense department said around 100 people were on board the passenger train, which was traveling south from Verona to Bologna. The freighter, which carried long metal rods, was headed north from Rome to San Zeno Falzano.

Though most train accidents in Italy are minor, the country has occasionally seen deadly crashes. The most recent was in July 2002, when a train from Palermo to Messina derailed in northeastern Sicily, killing at least eight people.

Kerry meets with Syrian leadership

The talks

centered on

situation in

Iraa and how

to prevent

militants

from movina

from Syria

The Associated Press

DAMASCUS, Syria — Syria's president on Saturday assured Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., that he is interested in dialogue with Washington to improve strained relations between the countries, Syria's official news agency re-

President Bashar Assad "underscored the importance of dialogue between the two sides over all issues under

discussion, especially those of common interest," SANA said. It did not elaborate.

The former Democratic presidential candidate, who arrived in Damascus on Friday, met for two hours with Assad before meeting separately with Foreign Minister Farouk al-Sharaa.

In both meetings

the talks centered on the situation in Iraq and how to prevent militants from moving from Syria to

Kerry's visit comes amid strained U.S.-Syrian relations, particularly over accusations by American and Iraqi interim government officials that Damascus is doing too little to stop border infiltration. Washington also accuses Svria of backing Palestinian

militant groups opposed to Israel. Syria denies both claims but says it can't fully control its long, porous border with Iraq and regards Palestinian militants as fighters opposed to Israel's illegal occupation of Arab territories

A few months ago, Washington imposed sanctions on Syria under an act accusing Damascus of seeking weapons of mass destruction, a charge Syria denies, and hosting Palestinian groups Washington deems terrorist.

In September, the U.N. Security Council passed a resolution calling on Syria to withdraw its troops from Lebanon and disman-

> tle the Syrian-backed Lebanese Hezbollah guerrilla group.

SANA said Kerry's talks with
Assad included
ways of boosting
U.S.-Syrian relations in all fields, combating terrorism and the need
for making the
Middle East region free from all
weapons of mass
destruction.

to Iraq. Referring this month's elections in Iraq. Assad stressed the importance of conducting the voting in "a democratic climate and with the participation of all Iraq's tions with, independence and sover-

The Assad-Kerry meeting, which was also attended by al-Sharaa, also stressed the importance of achieving a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East in order "to establish security and stability in the region," SANA said.

Kerry arrived from Iraq, where he met U.S. troops in the volatile northern city of Mosul.

Fans in Germany can't help falling in love with the King

Birthday bash marks Elvis' 70th birthday

BY MELISSA EDDY The Associated Press

BAD NAUHEIM, Germany — German Elvis Presley fans, clad in jean jackets, hats and T-shirts bearing the name of the King, flocked to this spa town to celebrate his 70th birthday with a series of shows and events.

Organized by local authorities and the local Elvis Presley Association, the events marking his birthday on Saturday included a Las Vegas show, a gospel concert and walking tours of places the singer lived from October 1958 through February 1960 while stationed here as a soldier — his only residence outside the United States.

"His voice was maje: there was so

much soul, so much heart in it," said Isolde Sueltemeyer, a classical musician from Cologne.

Sueltemeyer, now retired, was lucky enough to secure a room Friday in the art deco Grunewald Hotel where Presley lived upon arriving in Germany. Complaints from other residents that his rehearsing was disruptive forced him eventually to feat his complaints.

She was one of several fans who gathered Friday to walk in the footsteps of the

man many Germans credit with bringing rock 'n' roll to Europe.

An exhibit at Germany's national muse-

um, Haus der Geschichte, or History House, in the former West German capital of Bonn also commemorates the singer's unique roll in the history of music here. Included in the exhibit, which runs until

Feb. 27, are countless artifacts gathered by Claus-Kurt Ilge, including a tape recorder and dozens of albums that Presley gave to him before returning to the United States. Ilge has been instrumental in raising Bad Nautherins profile as "Germany's Germany's and Nautherins profile as "Germany's still do more. For years, he says, he has crusaded to have the street in front of the Grunewald Hotel renamed in honor of Presley, but local politicians have been re-

Ulrich Schlichthaerle, head of the city's tourism office, says officials are only now realizing their city's connection to the King can raise its profile.

"Out of more than 100 spa towns in Germany, we are the only one that can claim a 20th-century artist resided here," Schlichthaerle said. "Many of them have connections to Mozart, Beethoven or Brahms, but only we have Elvis."



GUS SCHUETTLER/Stars and Stripes

Sgt. Elvis Presley poses for a photo as he signs autographs for local residents in Friedberg, Germany, in February 1960. Presley was awaiting his discharge from the Army the following month after two years of service. In honor of the King's 70th birthday Saturday, German fans flocked to celebrations in Bad Nauheim, where Elvis spent much of his time.



EUROPEAN FORECAST

Monday lows in the lower to mid-40s

SUN & MOON					
Sunrise (Ba Sunrise (Fr Sunset (Ba Sunset (Fra	ankfurt) ighdad)	Today 7:08AM 8:23AM 5:13PM 4:45PM	7:07AM 8:23AM 5:14PM 4:46PM		
New moon	First off.	Full moon	Last otr.		

36 P.O.I., 21 P.O.I., 22 P.O.I., 22 P.O.I., 22 P.O.I., 23 P.O.I., 24 P.O.I., 25 P.O.I., 26 P.O.I., 27 P.O.I., 452 68 71 48 33 69 70 48 77 55 36 36 26 75 24 1 42 55 4 18 42 33 67 42 55 56 44 38 7 29 10 El Par PCldy Cldy Cldy PCldy PCldy PCldy Rain PCldy Snow Cldy Snow Snow



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A 'lighter light infantry'?

All-woman infantry, huh ("Give all-woman infantry a try," letter, Jan. 4)?

What an amazing way to show your thanks to the military that's done everything possible to diversify itself for you, by creating an all-female group of your own. Even better, let's look at this from a common-sense viewpoint.

We already have a double standard with our physical training tests. The last thing we need is an even lighter light in-fantry to keep things "fair" for our smaller, weaker counterparts

Also, though they may be female, they are still soldiers, too. You'd still have your problem children, normal wear-and-tear injuries, and the additionresponsibilities of pregnancy and such. Infantry training is not for the physically weak or impaired.

Plus, once the volunteers realize the glamor from "G.I. Jane" isn't there, you'd be looking at serious retention problems

Don't get me wrong, if a female can do the job mentally and physically, more power to her. And, of course, the old argu ment "a woman can stop a bullet just as well as a man" still holds true. But tell me, letter writer, who's going to want to pick up the load from your female 203 or Squad Automatic Weapon gunner when they're too sore to carry it any further when you're outside the wire, not knowing what's around the next corner? In support roles, it's easy. You just have your male counterparts "help" her, or move her to an easier responsibility.

With all due respect, if you want to play infantry, come to Iraq for a bit and pull patrols with other "support" elements that are over here. As you may or may not have heard, they've got all they can handle. Who knows, maybe you can win this for us single-handedly with your "kick butt" approach.

> Spc. Paul Martell Raghdad

Mineo housing just too far away

I think the writer of "Sigonella housing







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the best" (letter, Dec. 29) is missing the point; the letter writer, being one of the "lucky few" who had the freedom to choose where you would live, is, of course, happy to live in Mineo, as it was her choice

Mineo Housing isn't for everyone. The housing units out here are really nice; nowhere has it been stated that they were substandard in any way. It's just the fact that it's 45 minutes from any of the facilities

If you wanted to do normal family activities such as go bowling or to the movies or even go to the Naval Exchange, it's a day trip.

There is no bus service out here, except for the school buses. Yes, we have a firehouse but no paramedic or ambu-lance, so if you had an emergency, according to the emergency room at the naval hospital, it would take 45 minutes for an ambulance to get to the housing units, then 45 minutes for it to reach the hospital, so a total round trip of 1 hour, 30 minutes, minimum.

I grew up in Europe and have lived in America. Where we chose to live depended on where the schools and hospitals were. This is a major quality-of-life issue that has been overlooked because of the need to fill government housing.

The letter writer had her freedom to

choose. I, as well as many other residents not

of the Mineo Garden Community, did Sarah DiGioia

Sigonella Sicily

Take care of veterans, too

The tsunami in South Asia is one of the most devastating disasters in recent memory, and we should show our supnort as a nation.

However, isn't it interesting how the money can surface in the wink of an eye, how the flag can be flown at half staff quickly, and how we instantly bend to the whining of the United Nations?

This is particularly interesting when the argument against our aging military retirees' promised health benefits is lack of money.

Also, our World War II and Korean War veterans are dying at the rate of more than 1,100 per day and flags are not flying half mast for them. And the United Nations did not step forward with help for our recent catastrophic hurricanes and tornadoes. We cannot even afford the body armor and equipment to ensure maximum safety for our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan.

We are the most powerful and greatest nation in the world, yet we cannot adequately honor those who made this, and who are now making this, possible. Our politicians need to do what is right for our military, both active and retired. If we don't, how can we expect those on active duty today, making many of those same sacrifices we did, to remain on as the career backbone of the U.S. military?

I have stepped forward with monetary help for Sept. 11, disaster relief and for the tsunami relief effort. I just feel strongly that we should honor commitments to our own, as well as to others. Let us put our priorities where they belong — and not use the excuse of a lack of funding for our own, when we can immediately step forward for others, just so we look politically correct. They will all readily accept it and yet shortly be back bashing Americans.

> Air Force Capt. Ron Shaw (Ret.) Orem IItah













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OPINION

What newspapers are saying at home

The following editorial excerpts are selected from a cross section of newspapers throughout the United States. The editorials are provided by The Associated Press and other stateside syndicates.

Canadian cows' range of motion The Tri-City Herald, Kennewick, Wash.

It's almost time to let the cows come home, the Bush administration has decided. Canadian cows. that is.

The decision by the U.S. government to reopen its borders in March to certain categories of Canadian cattle is a good move, backed with an abundance of caution.

The Bush administration is expected to proceed with lifting the ban even after Canada said that it had found a suspected new case of mad cow disease. No part of the 10-year-old dairy cow in question has entered human or animal food.

The ban, which sprang from a May 2003 case of mad cow disease in Alberta, has outlived its time. It may have ended sooner, if it were not for the United States' first case of mad cow disease, discovered in a Holstein from Mabton almost exactly one year ago. The Mabton cow was traced back to a Canadian herd.

The U.S. government has repeatedly petitioned other governments to lift their bans on importing our beef. A reciprocal arrangement with Canada seems only fair. ...

The Agriculture Department says effective measures are in place to prevent and detect bovine spongiform encephalopathy.
With safeguards in place, it's time to renew the traditional across-the-border cooperation of U.S. and Canadian cattle producers.

Russians weigh freedom, order Chicago Tribune

Five years ago, the first democratically elected president of Russia, Boris Yeltsin, stunned his countrymen and the world by resigning. Turning to his hand-picked prime minister, Vladimir Putin, Yeltsin gave him the keys to the Kremlin and urged him to "take care of Russia."

Russia, as that new year of 2000 dawned, desperately needed care.... For their part, Russians have willingly

traded in their unruly 1990s-style freedom for a chance at greater domestic security. Putin's approval ratings remain high. Americans can understand that desire for

freedom from terrorism. Though this country has not suffered a repeat of Sept. 11, 2001, Russia has been rocked by apartment bombings, blown-up airplanes, suicide bombers and the horrific hostage-siege in Beslan that resulted in the deaths of hundreds of children...

It is no great surprise that the Russian people are willing to give Putin a stronger hand, Russians submitted to strong, autocratic leaders through hundreds of years of rule by the czars and 70 years of communism. Putin was steeped in the secretive ways of the Soviet KGB and his anti-democratic tendencies were apparent early on. He promised Russians stability and economic growth — both were in short order frey eyears ago.

Fear has trumped hope for Russians. The state is becoming more powerful with the promise that it will make the people more secure. Centuries of Russian history argue that that is a false promise.

that that is a false promise.

Where is Putin taking Russia? Certainly not to the re-creation of the Soviet empire.

But the chances that Russia will develop into a free, prosperous and modern democracy seem to be slipping away.

Insurgents won't rock Iraq vote The Poughkeepsie (N.Y.) Journal

President Bush is holding firm that Iraqi elections must take place at the end of this month. It's the best position to take, for now. For all the likely problems with distributing and counting ballots in such a chaotic cli-



mate, delaying elections could exacerbate fears the United States into committed to removing its troops as soon as possible. Many Iraqi factions, and members of the world community, still have great distrust about U.S. intentions in Iraq. More importantly, the Bush administration realizes the sooner elections are held, the faster it will be able to withdraw troops and let the Iraqis run their own country.

ing up efforts to make sure military vehicles operating in Iraq have the proper armor to protect troops against attacks. And the military also will boost U.S. troop strength in the short term, adding about 12,000 to 138,000 already serving in Iraq.

Those efforts are essential. The United

States also has to make a long-term investment by providing better training for Iraqi security forces.

It's still anyone's guess whether the January elections can be carried out. ... But it's clear delaying the vote would be a huge victory for the insurgents. ... That is reason enough to stick with the timetable for now.

U.N. 'stingy' in appreciation The Gazette, Colorado Springs, Colo.

Maybe "stingy" means something different in Norwegian than it does in English. That might explain how comments made by Jan Egeland, the Norwegian who serves as emergency relief coordinator for the United Nations, suggesting that the United States and other countries were being less-than-generous in responding to the stunami disaster in Asia, could have been "misinterpreted."

Egeland conducted the Dec. 27 press conference at the United Nations in English, however. "It is beyond me why are we so stingy, really," he said. "If the foreign assistance of many commission to come. I, don't think that is very generous." That provoked a strong response from Secretary of State Colin Powell — "The United States is not sting," he said — and led to some "clarifications" from Egeland the next day, claiming

The United States contributes roughly 0.13 percent of its Gross Domestic Product each year to development aid — that excludes food aid (of which we are by far the world's biggest provider), funds for rebuild-

ing Iraq and Afghanistan and private donations. That's less than the 0.7 percent of GDP the United Nations suggests we contribute but, given that the U.S. economy is the world's largest, it's still a generous expenditure—and can't be called "stingy" in any language.

Voyeur law: Seeing is believing The Times-Picayune, New Orleans

A federal law that now makes it illegal to surreptitiously film or photograph another person should help thwart the abuse of advances in technology that have made taking pictures effortless.

Small video cameras can be installed virtu-

ally anywhere, and many mobile phones now come equipped with cameras. They've become the tools of the perverted who have sneaked them into gym locker rooms and public restrooms.

The law that was signed by President Bush applies only to vogeuristic acts committed on federal property. Proponents of the legislation cited examples of inconspicuous cameras being used to capture images of people in dressing rooms and showers on Navy warships.

That's despicable. But until this new legis-

lation was passed, there was no law that made such actions illegal. That gap between what we know to be wrong and what we've deemed illegal was similar to a loophole Louisiana had until recently. Susan Wilson, a Monroe woman, discov-

ered in 1998 that a neighbor had been secretly recording her and her family's private moments.

When she went to authorities, however, she discovered that even though in-person

voyeurism was illegal, videotaped voyeurism had not been addressed. Wilson's complaints led to the passage of a video voyeurism bill in Louisiana that made

wison's companies led to the passage of a video voyeurism bill in Louisiana that made the action a felony. Since then, more than 30 other states also have taken a stance against video voyeurism.

An assault on fair punishment The Plain Dealer, Cleveland

Todd Bertuzzi has gotten a break he does not deserve from a provincial court in British Columbia. Bertuzzi is the Vancouver Canucks hockey star who, in the closing seconds of a lopsided loss in March, viciously attacked Steve Moore of the Colorado Avalanche from behind. ...

Three days before Christmas, Bertuzzi accepted a very nice present from prosecutors: By pleading guilty to assault causing bodily harm and agreeing to pay a SS00 fine and perform 80 hours of community service, he can walk away with no criminal record after a year. A hearing to ratify the deal was arranged so hastily that Moore could not travel from his home in Massachusetts to face his assailant in court. Had he appeared, Moore might have

Had ne appeared, Moore might have talked about what the attack meant to him. Almost 10 months later, he still suffers from headaches, memory loss and mood swings. He cannot skate or work out.

He cannot skate or work out...

At its best, professional hockey is a game
of speed and grace. But one reason that so
few Americans follow it — and even fewer
seem upset by this year's shutdown — is the
NHL's refusal to take an unbending stand
against the eye-for-an-eye violence represented by Bertuza's assault.

Oust Annan for his inaction The Tribune-Democrat, Johnstown, Pa.

It's time for America to sever ties. We aren't prepared to call U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan a crook. He may simply be an incompetent. But either way, Annan has no right to be given an additional two years in his prestigious position....
There was the U.N.'s oil-for-food scandal

in Iraq. As Nile Gardiner of The Heritage Foundation noted in a recent column, it was "the biggest scandal in the history of the United Nations and the biggest financial fraud of modern times." He wrote that the U.N. program was supposed to help the people of Iraq, but instead enriched their corrupt leaders.

Charles Duelfer, a U.S. weapons inspector, wrote that Aman's hand-picked director of the program supposedly received a woucher from Saddam Hussein for 13 million barrels of oil. Some humanitorian program rerels of oil. Some humanitorian program and congo involving U.N. personnel and peacekeepers, Gardiner wrote that the U.N. is accused of human rights violations against refugees "on a scale that dwarfs the Abo Ghzational responsibility for that debade:

As the leading financial sponsor of U.N. operations, the United States should demand the immediate removal of Annan. If President Bush does not have the fortitude to do it, Congress should, by cutting off all U.S. payments to the U.N. ...

In recent years, the U.N. has become a forum for strong expressions of anti-American sentiment. It is time that the United States stopped paying for its own revile-

PAGE 22 STARS AND S

Too much MTV?

WA LAKE STEVENS -Someone in the Census Bureau may be watching a little too much MTV.

Bevis Lake, a 5.7-acre body of water in a forested area about 25 miles northeast of Seattle, is now appearing in Bureau records with a different name: Rutthead Lake

Those two names - Bevis and Butt-

head - are almost identical to the 1990s MTV cartoon show "Beavis and Butt-head," which featured a pair of slacker teenagers who watch music videos and make bad

Someone at the Census Bureau must have gotten hored and made a joke out of naming the lake, said Ken Brown, a land surveyor with the state Department of Natural Resources

It's not unusual for small lakes in out-of-the-way places to have different names because of variations in county, state or other official records, but there are no such indications in this case, Brown said.

Shrine can stay

MA PEPPERELL — A judge has ruled that a man can keep the illuminated, three-story shrine in his backyard that he says he was instructed to build by the Virgin Mary.

Officials in this rural town on the

Massachusetts-New Hampshire border ordered Noel Dube, 85, to remove the shrine in 1999, saying he didn't have the proper permits Neighbors had complained about its size and the thousands of visitors it attracted annually

Instead, Dube expanded it, adding a 30-foot painting of Jesus and a 24-foot illuminated cross to an existing 20-foot mural of Our Lady of Fatima.

Last week, Middlesex Superior Court Judge Kenneth Fishman ruled that the shrine can stay.

Southern speaking

RALEIGH — A television documentary debuting this week examines the dialects and language of North Carolina, from the "hoi toide" of Ocracoke Island residents to Cherokee elders who converse in their native language.

In addition to examining the different dialects, the UNC-TV documentary "Voices of North Carolina" also explores what they mean to people's identity. The film is a companion to "Do You Speak American?" a documentary about this country's speech that aired na-tionwide this week on PBS.

Wolf watch in north

D COEUR D'ALENE — Wolf sightings are increasing across northern Idaho and the governor is expected to ask the federal government for statewide control of the wolf population, Idaho Fish and Game Director Steve Huffaker said.

Interior Secretary Gale Norton announced this week a new rule giving Idaho and Montana more authority to manage wolves inside a federally designated recovery area. But more wolf sightings are being reported north of Interstate 90, outside of the recovery area.

Gov. Dirk Kempthorne is expected to send a letter to Washington, D.C., later this week asking for Palmer Square in Princeton, N.J.



statewide control, Huffaker said.

Mistrial for doctor

OH NORWALK — A judge declared a mistrial in a medical negligence case against a physician after the doctor came to the aid of a juror who passed out during opening statements.

The defendant, Dr. Joseph Carver, told the 74-year-old juror Wednesday that it appeared he had a heart flutter that momentarily prevented oxygen from getting to his brain and caused the black-

The juror was taken to a hospital for tests.

No new trial date has been set. Carver, an obstetrician and gyne cologist, is being sued for \$3 million by a couple who say their new-born daughter was dropped on the floor of a delivery room in 2000 while under Carver's care

Fake cop shoots man

NY FRANKLIN SQUARE — The manager of a Long Island bank was shot dead as he drove home from work by a man posing as a police officer, authorities said.

ties said.

James Gottlieb, 49, was driving on Semton Boulevard in Franklin Square at about 7 p.m. Wednesday when a black SUV with flashing lights pulled him over, Nassau



Hop, skip and a jump Anna Xine skips happily as temperatures rose to the mid 60's in

County police said. When he got out of his car, Gottlieb was confronted by a man who claimed to be a nolice officer and ordered him to get on the ground. said Detective Sgt. Dennis Barry, of the Nassau Coun-

ty Police Homicide Squad. Gottlieb demanded to see the man's identification, and the two began to argue. Gottlieb started walking toward the front door of a nearby house and the man posing as a police officer fired three shots, striking Gottlieb in the arm and leg, police said. He died at Mercy Hospital in

Rockville Centre at 8:14 p.m. The gunman fled the scene and there were no arrests.

Defendant bites bailiff

FORT WORTH — A defendant flew into a rage in a Fort Worth courtroom and bit a bailiff after a judge announced he had been found guilty of indecency with a child Wednesday, witnesses said

Before biting the bailiff, Lonnie B. Howard threw a water pitcher across the courtroom.

"We think he was trying to hit the victim's family," Terry Gr-isham of the Tarrant County Sheriff's Office told KDFW television station in Dallas-Fort Worth.

Howard then lunged at the family, biting the face of one of the bailiffs who tried to restrain him. Officials say he will be charged with aggravated assault on an officer.

Oil spill in tunnel

VA HAMPTON tor-trailer lost its fuel tank while heading westbound through the Hampton Roads Bridge Tunnel on Monday night, spilling more than 100 gallons of diesel fuel and closing the tunnel to traffic for nearly two hours.

The incident hannened at 7:42 p.m., spokeswoman Tiffany Elliott of the Virginia Department of Transportation said. It did not involve any other vehicles and no one was injured, she said, but specifics about how the fuel tank came

"It seems as though it just dropped off the truck," Elliott said. The amount of fuel in the tank also was not immediately clear. but Elliott said there were indications the tank was full, holding as many as 140 gallons of fuel

Charges in model murder

YEADON — A man was charged Wednesday with raping and killing an aspiring teenage model, then cutting up her body, putting it in a steel drum and burning it with help from an acquaintance. Delaware County District Attor-

nev G. Michael Green said he will consider seeking the death penalty for Lamar Haymes, 29. Haymes was charged with kid-

napping, rape, first-degree mur-der, abuse of a corpse and other counts in the death of 15-year-old Deanna Wright McIntosh, who left home early last month after an argument with her mother.

raped and killed Wright McIntosh at a house in Lansdowne just blocks from her family's Yeadon



Roofer Ken Buchalski wipes sweat from his brow Sky diving while working atop a roof as the Jantzen Girl equin seems to dive out of a deep blue sky in Daytona Beach, Fla.



Arlie Cornbower of New Freedom, Pa., guides his Prize pig "barrow," a male pig, past the judge during the test market hogs contest at the 89th annual Pennsylvania Farm Show in Harrisburg, Pa.



Reflections of the past

Aportion of Philadelphia's Boathouse Row is shown at night. The
rowhouse lights, a fixture since the 1976 Bicentennial celebrations, and not revamped since the mid-eighties, were later turned off as part of a plan to re-do the lighting with
light-mitting idodes instead of standard light bulber.



Big hat to fill Nine-month-old Aubrianna Taylor tries on the hat of her uncle, Washington State
Trooper Charles Bates, of Key Center, Wash., prior to Bates taking part in graduation ceremonies in Olympia, Wash.



A splash of color
Japanese Apricot trees are blooming in the Sara P. Duke Gardens in Durham, N.C., adding a bright touch to the January monochromatic scene.



On a fishin' mission Tamarion Botley, 4, casts a fishing line near a foot bridge across Ellen Trout Memorial Lake in Lufkin, Texas.

Men get big money jobs

NC RALEIGH — A study by the state personnel office found that North Carolina employs almost as many women as men in state government, but women fill most low-wage jobs. Women make up 48.9 percent of the state work force but hold 71.5 percent of the jobs in the bottom 10 pay grades. Men hold 75 percent of the jobs in the bottom 10 pay grades. Men hold 75 percent of the jobs in the top 15 pay grades.

Scholarship needs funds

SD PIERRE — Legislators will be asked to find \$500,000 to fully fund a new scholarship program that's more popular than expected. It pays \$5,000 in tuition over four years to qualifying high school graduates for any college or vocational school in the state. The Legislature last year appropriated enough money to fund two years of the program for 650 students, but \$25 qualified.

Suspect killed

CAMDEN — A man killed during an attempted robbery was responsible for a string of rapes in a downtown neighborhood, authorities said Wednesday.

Camden County Prosecutor Vincent P. Sarubbi said the state police DNA lab confirmed Antonio Diaz Reyes, 32, was the rapist in the recent attacks of a high school student, a university student and a store worker.

The rapes in November and December were brazen daylight attacks at knifepoint. Investigators decided to check Reyes' DNA because the would-be robber's method was similar to that used in the sexual assaults.

Authorities said Reyes entered the Camden City Wireless and Fishing Supply store Friday afternoon and held the store owner's wife at knifepoint. Owner Ngoc Le, 28, grabbed his own gun and told Reyes he would let him live if he released his wife, authorities said. Reyes refused and Le opened fire, fatally hitting Reyes in the head.

Budget request add up

HELENA — The Legislature's chief budget analyst warned that which the state appears to have the state appears to spend the demands for the cash are quickly eating it away. School funding needs and a state employee pay raise easily could drain what remains of an "unprecedented" seaming of an "unprecedented" seaming the state of t

Funny paperwork

DALLAS — An internal investigation has found that Dallas County Sheriff's Department officials conspired to fairly training records for a civilian reserve deputy so he could patrol county highways unsupervised and make DWI arrests.

Former Sheriff Jim Bowles, days before leaving office last week, reversed conclusions of the investigation and ordered them reclassified as "unfounded," shutting down the case before he left his job.

According to an internal memorandum, the department's internal affairs office had enough evidence to prove that Deputy Arlo Mike Baker, Deputy Thomas "Buck" Fortner and reserve Deputy Cary Platt "conspired to manufacture fraudulent official Sheriff's Department records."

Platt, a real estate developer, denied the allegations Wednesday.

Gargantuan gator

FL MIAMI — Residents could be forgiven for doing a double-take when an alligator weighing more than 400 pounds was yanked out of a downtown creek — so big it had to be hoisted out by a fire truck.

The 12-foot alligator was discovered in Wagner Creek, about 16 miles from the Everglades, in the shadow of two major hospital complexes and around the corner from a veterans' medical center, a court house, a county jail and government office buildings.

It was "about the last place you'd expect to see an alligator of any size," said trapper Todd Hardwick. Alligators are much more common in suburban canals and lakes.

The alligator likely swam downtown years ago, when it was smaller, and lived in the canal system draining the Miami Civic Center, emerging only to snatch raccoons and opossums from the bank, Hardwick said

Charges dropped

SAN ANTONIO — Child indecency charges have been dropped against Federal Administrative Law Judge Forrest Elmo Stewart. A teenage accuser several months ago admitted that she lied about having sex with Stewart, 78. District Attorney Susan Reed citted poor cooperation between federal officials and investigators in determining what really happened.

Salty wreck

TN ERWIN — With winter's full wrath still to be felt, Unicoi County is already having a cold-weather crisis: It lost all three of its salt trucks during a single traffic accident.

"We have snow plows and grade."

ers to do the winter road work, but we'll have to probably seek help from the state in getting road salt spread on county roads," said Terry Haynes, the county's highway department superintendent.

While traveling Dec. 22 to get more salt, the trucks collided with a tractor-trailer. Icy conditions were blamed for the accident. The lost trucks were valued at

about \$275,000. While they "are fully covered with insurance, it takes time to go through the insurance process," Haynes said.

War on homelessness

MN DULUTH — Mayor Herb Bergson wants to end homelessness in the city within 10 years. In his state of the city address, Bergson said the city will team up with a local food bank to start a fund for Duluth residents who go hungry. "It's going to be very challenging to have the long-term resources that will sustain this," said Greg Oven, who then the St. Paul-based Wilder Research Center. He said homelessness is a complex issue.

Stories and photos from The Associated Press

		Updated sports listi	AFR ngs are available on the first		orts section or AFN's Web si	te at http://myafn.dodmedia.	osd.mil/	
	(AFN-FAMILY)	(AFN-MOVIE)	(AFN-EUROPE)	SUNDAY, JANUARY 9, (AFN-KOREA)	(AFN-NEWS)	(AFN-SPORTS)	(SPECTRUM)	(AFN-PACIFIC)
9:00	House of Mouse	(8:46) Movie * * 1 "The Mira-	Movie ** "Life-Size" (2000.	Andromeda Scenarios are	Headline News	College Basketball Arizona at	Latin Lifestyles	Andromeda Scenarios are
9:30	Animaniacs	cle Worker" (1979) Melissa	Fantasy) Tyra Banks, Lindsay	computer-generated.	America's Black Forum	Stanford. (Live)	Urban Style	computer-generated.
10:00	Ed, Edd n Eddy	Gilbert, Patty Duke Astin.	Lohan, Jere Burns.	Headline News	The Chris Matthews Show	1	Fantasy Camp	Headline News
10:30	Fillmore (EI)	Movie ★★★¼ "Courage Un-	SpongeBob SquarePants	ESPNews	Navy/Marine Corps News		Roker on the Road	ESPNews
11:00	Out There	der Fire" (1996, Drama) Den- zel Washington, Meg Ryan.	Destinations	Judging Amy Amy oversees a	Big Story Weekend Edition With Rita Crosby	SportsCenter	Radical Sabbatical	Judging Amy Amy oversees a high profile murder case.
11:30	Planet's Funniest Animals		Ebert-Movies	high profile murder case.			All-American Festivals	
12:00	NBA Inside Stuff	(:15) Movie **** "The Apartment" (1960, Comedy)	Headline News Air Force TV News	Movie * "I Am Sam" (2001, Drama) Sean Penn, Michelle	20/20	NFL Primetime College Gamenight	The Suze Orman Show	Movie * "I Am Sam" (2001, Drama) Sean Penn Michelle
12:30	Happy Days Movie ** "Quest for Camelot"	Jack Lemmon, Shirley	College Basketball Teams to	Pfeiffer, Dakota Fanning, A	Fox and Friends	NBA Basketball New York	Myth Busters *Exploding Toi-	Pfeiffer, Dakota Fanning, A
13:30	(1998, Fantasy) Voices of Jessalyn	MacLaine. An office worker lends his flat for extramarital af-	Be Announced. (Taped)	mentally challenged man's daughter is taken away from	I OX dilu i ficilus	Knicks at Cleveland Cavaliers.	let"	mentally challenged man's daughter is taken away from
14:00	Gilsig, Cary Elives.	fairs.		him.	Fox and Friends	From Gund Arena in Cleveland. (Live)	The 1900 House	him.
14:30	Movie "Born Free: A New Adven-	(:35) Movie * * * "Back-		Scrubs Interns' parents visit.		(LIVE)		Scrubs Interns' parents visit.
15:00	ture" (1996, Drama) Jonathan Brandis Ariana Birchards	draft" (1991, Drama) Kurt Rus- sell, William Baldwin, Robert	SportsCenter	Meet the Press	CBS News Sunday Morning	SportsCenter	Navy SEALs Training: BUD/s	Meet the Press
15:30		De Niro. Chicago firefighters					Class 234	
16:00	Doug (EI) Rocket Power	work overtime to stop a mad ar-	WWE Smackdown!	America's Black Forum Access Hollywood	Face the Nation	Sports Reporters SportsCenter	JAG 'Liberty'	America's Black Forum Access Hollywood
16:30	The Fairly OddParents	sonist. True Hollywood Story	Andromeda Scenarios are	Access Hollywood	Headline News	NFL Countdown	The Best Of	Access Hollywood
17:00 17:30	Rugrats	True nollywood Story	computer-generated.	ESPNews	Navy/Marine Corps News	INFL COURGOWN	Good Eats	ESPNews
18:00	Kratt Bros. Be the Creature	1	NFL Today (Live)	NFL Today (Live)	Late Edition Primetime		My Wife and Kids	NFL Today (Live)
18:30	Banded mongoose.		in a roday (are)	in a roddy (arc)	Luic Luidon i i inscinic		King of the Hill	in E loady (Elic)
19:00	America's Funniest Home	Movie ★★★ "As Good as It	NFL Football AFC Wildcard	NFL Football AFC Wildcard	1	PBA Bowling Geico Open.	Hope & Faith "Jury Duty"	NFL Football AFC Wildcard
19:30	Videos	Gets" (1997, Comedy-Drama) Jack Nicholson, Helen Hunt, A.	Denver Broncos at Indianapolis Colts From the BCA Dome in	Denver Broncos at Indianapolis Colts. From the BCA Dome in		From Mesa, Ārizona. (Taped)	All of Us	Deriver Broncos at Indianapolis Colts. From the RCA Dome in
20:00	Gilmore Girls "Afterboom"	mean-spirited New York author	Indianapolis (Live)	Indiananolis (Live)	FOX News		Last Comic Standing	Indiananolis (Live)
20:30		finds love with a waitress.			FOX News	Motorcycle Racing AMA/THQ Supercross Series 125cc.		, ,
21:00	American Dreams "Can't Hold On"	(:22) Movie * "The One"			FOX News	Motorcycle Racing AMA/THO	NCIS "Enigma"	
21:30 22:00	The Cosby Show	(2001, Science Fiction) Jet Li,			Meet the Press	Supercross Series 250cc.	Friends	
22:30	Home Improvement	Carla Gugino, Delroy Lindo.	NFL Football NFC Wildcard	NFL Football NFC Wildcard	meet the Fless		Seinfeld "The Airport"	NFL Football NFC Wildcard
23:00	Touched by an Angel	Movie ★★% "Booty Call"	Minnesota Vikings at Green	Minnesota Vikings at Green	FNS with Chris Wallace	Kentucky. (Live)	Mad TV	Minnesota Vikings at Green
23:30		(1997, Comedy) Jamie Foxx.	Bay Packers. (Live)	Bay Packers. (Live)				Bay Packers. (Live)
				MONDAY, JANUARY 10	. 2005			
00:00	SpongeBob SquarePants	(11:00) Movie "Booty Call"	(10:30) NFL Football NFC Wild-	(10:30) NFL Football NFC Wild-	Tim Russert	(10:30) College Basketball	Austin City Limits 'Fats Domi-	(10:30) NFL Football NFC Wild-
00:30	Rugrats	(:43) Movie * * * "Cowboy"	card Minnesota Vikings at Green Bay Packers, From Lam-	card Minnesota Vikings at Green Bay Packers From Lam-		Kansas at Kentucky. (Live)	no"	card Minnesota Vikings at Green Bay Packers From Lam-
1:00	Kratt Bros. Be the Creature Banded mongoose.	(1958) Jack Lemmon, Glenn Ford. A hotel clerk joins a cat-	beau Field in Green Bay, Wis.	beau Field in Green Bay, Wis.	People in the News	PGA Golf Mercedes Champi- onships Final Round. From	Hope & Faith "Jury Duty"	beau Field in Green Bay, Wis.
1:30		tleman on a drive to Mexico.	W 10.00	Dr. Phil	70.1. W I	the Plantation Course at Ka-	All of Us	Dr. Phil
2:00	America's Funniest Home Videos	Coming Attractions	Women's College Basketball DePaul at Marquette. (Live)	Ur. Phil	This Week	palua in Kapalua, Hawaii.	Last Comic Standing	Ur. Phil
3:00	Gilmore Girls "Afterboom"	Movie * * * "As Good as It		Oprah Winfrey	Dateline International	(Taped)	NCIS "Enigma"	Oprah Winfrey
3:30	diministra di ilia 7 dicibociii	Gets" (1997, Comedy-Drama)		opian minioj	Datemie international		noio Lingina	Opian manicy
4:00	American Dreams "Can't Hold	Jack Nicholson, Helen Hunt. A mean-spirited New York author	ESPNews	Headline News	CNN Sunday Night	NFL Primetime	Friends	Headline News
4:30	On"	finds love with a waitress.	ESPNews	Judge Judy	1	SportsCenter	Seinfeld "The Airport"	Judge Judy
5:00	Sesame Street (EI)		Meet the Press	Access Hollywood	CNN Presents		Breathingspace Yoga	Access Hollywood
5:30	B	(:22) Movie * "The One" (2001, Science Fiction) Jet Li,	Transfer Name	(:25) Guiding Light		NPL B. (K	Caribbean Workout	(:25) Guiding Light
6:00	Barney & Friends (EI) Blue's Clues "Nurture!"	Carla Gugino, Delroy Lindo.	Headline News ESPNews	(:13) General Hospital	Larry King Live	NFL Primetime NFL Films Presents	Body Shaping TIPical Mary Ellen	(:13) General Hospital
6:30 7:00	Dragon Tales (EI)	Dana Carvey Revealed Com-	Play With Me Sesame	Larry King Live	At Large With Geraldo Rivera	College Gamenight	The View	Aladdin "My Fair Aladdin"
7:00	Bob the Builder	ic-actor Dana Carvey.	Bear in the Big Blue House	Larry King Live	At Large With Geraldo Hivera	SportsCenter	THE VIEW	ChalkZone (EI)
8:00	The Wiggles "History"	Hollywood Backstories	Little Bear	Mucha Lucha	i		Emeril Live	Mucha Lucha
8:30	Dora the Explorer	Entertainment Tonight	Wheel of Fortune	Mary-Kate and Ashley	1			Kim Possible "Ron the Man"
9:00	Stanley	Movie ★★% "The Linda Mc-	Dr. Phil	Jeopardy!	The Beltway Boys	Women's College Basketball	30-Minute Meals	Jeopardy!
9:30	Sagwa-Siamese Cat	Cartney Story" (2000) George Segal, Elizabeth Mitchell.		Headline News	Fox News Watch	North Carolina at Kentucky. (Taned)	Paula's Home Cooking	Headline News
10:00	Arthur (EI)	(:45) Movie ** "Last Action	(9:46) Oprah Winfrey (:35) Guiding Light	ESPNews	Bulls and Bears Cavuto on Business	(-4)	Designers' Challenge	ESPNews AFN Evening News
10:30	Reading Rainbow (EI) Sagwa-Siamese Cat	(:45) Movie * * "Last Action Hero" (1993) Arnold	(:35) dulaing Light	Advisory Block 60 Minutes	Fox and Friends	SportsCenter	Fashion Emergency Life Is Great-Brooke Burke	AFN Evening News 60 Minutes
11:00	Stanley "Mockingbird Scat"	Schwarzenegger, Austin	(:17) General Hospital	ov mindles	OA GIAL I HEHUS	oporto center	The King of Queens	ov mindles
12:00	Dora the Explorer	O'Brien. A magic movie ticket plunges a boy into on-screen	Headline News	Without a Trace "Trip Box"	Dateline NBC	1	That '70s Show	Without a Trace "Trip Box"
12:30	The Wiggles "Multicultural"	action.	Judge Judy		l	NFL Football AFC Wildcard	Girlfriends	
13:00	Bob the Builder	Movie "The Road From	Today Clint Eastwood: Samuel	24 "Day 3: 9:00AM - 10:00AM"	Fox and Friends	Denver Broncos at Indianapolis Colts. From the RCA Dome in	Charmed "The Devil's Music"	24 "Day 3: 9:00AM - 10:00AM"
13:30	Dragon Tales (EI)	Coorain" (2002) Juliet Steven- son, Based on Jill Ker Conway's	L. Jackson; David Rosengarten.		L	Indianapolis. (Taped)		
14:00	Blue's Clues "Bugs!"	memoir of her life in Australia.		Pacific Report	Fox and Friends		Ally McBeal "Friends and Lovers"	Pacific Report
14:30	Barney & Friends (EI) Funniest Home Videos	(2:52) Movie * * * 5 "Hope	Aladdin "My Fair Aladdin"	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	American Morning		Any Day Now 'It's Called De-	The Tonight Show With Jay
15:30	Full House	and Glory" (1987, Comedy-	ChalkZone (EI)	Late Show With David Letter-	American morning		pression"	Late Show With David Letter-
16:00	Pokémon	Drama) Sarah Miles, David	Mucha Lucha	man	CNN Live Today	NFL Primetime	Third Watch "Hell Is What You	man
16:30	Yu-Gi-Oh! "Mind Game"	Hayman, Derrick O'Connor.	Kim Possible "Ron the Man"	Access Hollywood	1	College Gamenight	Make of It'	Access Hollywood
17:00	Doug "Doug's in Debt!" (EI)	Access Hollywood	Jeopardy!	Headline News		SportsCenter	Law & Order "Refuge" (Part 2	Headline News
17:30	Rocket Power		Headline News	The Late Late Show			of 2)	The Late Late Show
18:00	The Fairly OddParents	Entertainment Tonight	ESPNews		FOX News		The Simpsons	
18:30	Rugrats	Marrie & & Il Mana Com : :	AFN Evening News 60 Minutes	Dennis Miller	Dateline NBC	NFL Football NFC Wildcard Minnesota Vikings at Green	Everybody Loves Raymond	Dennis Miller
19:00 19:30	Lizzie McGuire Taina "The Big Show"	Movie ** "Along Came a Spider" (2001) Morgan Free-	bu minutes	Countdown With Keith Olher-	Dateline NBC	Bay Packers. From Lambeau	The Dead Zone 'Finding Rachel' (Part 1 of 2)	Countdown With Keith Olber-
20:00	Smallville "Obscura"	man. Alex Cross probes the kid-	Without a Trace "Trip Box"	mann with Keith Olber-	FOX News	Field in Green Bay, Wis.	Law & Order A vigilante priest	mann
20:00		napping of a senator's daughter.		Entertainment Studios.com	1	(Taped)	kills a drug dealer.	Entertainment Studios.com
21:00	Boy Meets World	Movie *** "Signs" (2002)	24 "Day 3: 9:00AM - 10:00AM"	The Hot List	Studio B With Shepard Smith	1	American Hot Rod "32 Hi-Boy	The Hot List
	Boy Meets World	Mel Gibson, Joaquin Phoenix. Aliens invade a former clergy-		Headline News	1		Roadster 1"	Headline News
22:00	The Cosby Show	Aliens invade a former clergy- man's Pennsylvania farm.	Headline News	Good Morning America	Your World With Neil Cavuto	NFL Primetime	Friends	Good Morning America
22:30	Home Improvement		The Tonight Show With Jay Leno			The Hot List	Seinfeld "The Pick"	
23:00	Touched by an Angel "What Are Friends For?"	Movie * * "Nick of Time" (1995) Johnny Depp.	Late Show-Letterman		Lester Holt Live	Around the Horn Pardon the Interruption	Seinfeld "The Bubble Boy" Blind Date	
23:30	740 THURSTON:	(1000) Julilly Depp.	Late Show-Letterman		l	Paruon the Interruption	Dilliu Date	

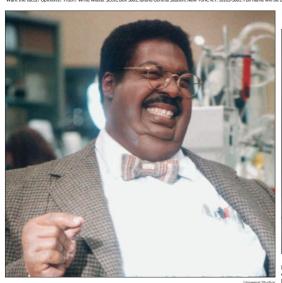


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© Touchstone Pictures
Between "Saturday Night Live" alums Eddie Murphy, left, in the depths

rsal Studios Life

of a fat suit in "The Nutty Professor," and Bill Murray, above, in "The Life Aquatic," Murray wins "most successful" by a narrow margin.

QI've noticed that many of today's young stars — Jessica Aliba, Kate Hudson, Britney Spears — wear too-long trousers. Is this a new fashion? — Tina Peters, Florence, Ariz. Ali's a drag, but those touching-the-ground slacks go hand hin hand with the latest Hollywood fashion statement for men — hanging shirttails. Don't worry: This too shall pass.

I read that former "Cheers" star Shelley Long was in a hospital after attempting suicide. How is she doing? — Tom Jones, South Plainfield, N.J.

ALong, 55, is back home, surrounded by family and friends. She had to deal with the recent breakup of her 22-year marriage to stockbroker Bruce Tyson, but her reps insist it was a bad reaction to an accidental overdose of a painkiller — not a suicide attempt. Shelley asked us to tell her fans she sends "heartfelt thanks for all their good wishes".

Has anyone won a Medal of Honor, our highest award for valor on the battlefield, for service in Iraq? — Herman Heyn, Baltimore

Not yet. Our sources say two men who served in Iraq have been recommended, but the approval process normally takes two to three years. In fact, the most recent recipient, Army Capt. Humbert "Rocky" Versace, died in Vietnam in 1965 and was not awarded the medal until 2002 — after his records were upgraded. Cited for "conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity," Versace was first recommended in 1969.

The members of the board of directors named in the suit, including Ovitz himself and CEO Michael Eisner, if the judge rules that they breached their duty. Any damages paid by them (or by their liability insurers) would go to The Walt Disney Co. — which, in effect, belongs to the shareholders.



Scripps Howard News Service

American speed skater and heartthrob Apolo Ohno has been busy training for next year's Olympic Games in Italy.

What has speed skater Apolo Ohno been up to since he won a gold and a silver medal at the 2002 Winter Olympics? — Melissa Sanchez, West Valley City, Utah

A Training for the 2006 Olympics in Italy. Ohno, 22, leads the standings on the World Cup short-track speed-sharing circuit. "Two been consistent this year, medaling in every single distance," he tells us. Off the ice, he donates his time to children's charities, including Make-a-Wish, and is negotiating with sponsors for lucrative endorsement deals.

Q"Saturday Night Live" alumni. Where does Eddie Murphy fall on your scale? — Dee Moore, Cleveland

pny lain of your scale: — Dee moore, Cuereara.

A close second. Murphy's credits include a number of box-office blockbusters: "Trading Places," "Coming to America," "48 Hrs.," "Beverly Hills Cop," "The Nutty Professor," "Dr. Doolittle" and the donkey's voice in "Shrek" and "Shrek 2." Eddie, 43, has made more money, but we still think Bill is a more versatile actor.

Is Deanna Durbin, the child star of the '30s, still alive? — Flori von Paternos, West Hartford, Conn. Yes. Now 83, Durbin lives near Paris in Neauphle-le-

A'es. Now 83, Durbin lives near Paris in Neaupine-de-Chateau. Her third husband, French director Charles Henri David, died in 1999 after 48 years of marriage. The actress-singer (born Edna Mae Durbin) got a special Oscar in 1939 with Mickey Rooney but quit Hollywood in 1950 and hasn't eranted a face-to-face interview since.

QAny chance Nathan Lane and Matthew Broderick, stars of "The Producers" on Broadway and film, will team up again? — Julie-Ann D., Las Vegas

A There's been a lot of talk on Broadway that Emanuel Azenberg, who has produced many of Neil Simon's plays, will bring the two back for a revival of Simons' "The Odd Couple." But until Lane, 48, and Broderick, 42, sign on the dotted line, says Azenberg, that's all it is — a lot of talk.

Any details on the girl who recently played a young Linda Ronstadt on NBC's "American Dreams"? — Leslie Sykes, Seal Beach, Calif.

Adolo Levesque, 14, began betting out songs at 2. "Music being home-schooled in New Jersey. She quit public school when her success led to jealousy among her classmates, explains Jolo, adding: 'I feel that going through hard times gave me something to write about." She penned three tunes on her self-titled 2004 CD.

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Tax time coming — watch for those forms

Start preparing papers now, experts say

trying to pull

their papers

together at the

last minute

can make

mistakes or

miss valuable

deductions.

BY EILEEN ALT POWELL The Associated Press

NEW YORK - Among the credit card bills, post-holiday sales flyers and junk mail this month will be a number of letters that consumers will want to save. These contain the W-2s, 1099s and 1098s, and other forms Americans need for their annu-

al April taxpaying ritual. Eric Tyson, a financial counselor and co-author of "Taxes for Dummies," suggests consumers set up a file folder or large

envelope to collect the incoming tax documents so they're ready when the come tax forms that are due April 15.

'When it's all in one place, it's easier to do your taxes," Tyson said.

Taxpayers trying to pull their papers together at the last minute can make mistakes or miss valuable deductions, he said.

In fact, a study by the Government Accountability Office found that more than 2 million Americans overpaid their federal taxes by an average of \$438 because they claimed the standard deduction rather

than writing off items such as mortgage in terest payments, state and local taxes, and charitable contributions. Tyson also suggests consumers "take at

least a glance" at the incoming tax documents to make sure they're correct.
"You don't want to wait until April 14, be-

cause you won't be able to get errors corrected in time to get your return filed on time," he said.

The form that's the most important at tax time for workers is the W-2, which employ-ers provide. W-2s contain information on workers' total earnings, as well as the amount of federal, state and local taxes that have been withheld.

Most employers distribute W-2s at their workplaces, but some mail them to workers as well as to former employees. Other forms likely to show up in mailbox

es in coming weeks are 1099-INT forms, on which financial institutions report the amount of interest paid to consumers, and 1099-DIV forms, where dividend earnings

are recorded.
Financial institutions send copies of many of these tax forms directly to the Internal Revenue Service, said Lonnie Gary, a committee chairman with the National As-

sociation of Enrolled Agents, based in Washington, D.C. Enrolled agents are licensed by the government to assist consumers with their taxes.

The government uses these third parties to verify many sources of income," Gary said. That should help motivate accurate reporting by consumers, he added.

Gary, who works as a tax manager with American Express Tax and Business Services in Mountain View, Calif., said workers who haven't received their W-2 forms by the first week in February should call their employers and ask when **Taxpayers**

they will be available. They go astray more often than you'd think," he said

"People move, change addresses, but the W-2 goes out to the previous ad-

dress."

If a company has gone out of business, workers generally can use their final pay stubs to prepare their taxes, he said. Peggy Munro, an en-

rolled agent in Montpelier. Vt., who also wrote sections for the "Taxes for Dummies" book, pointed out that there are a variety of 1099 forms that taxpayers may need.

In addition to those with information about taxable interest and dividend pay-ments, there are 1099s used to report sales of real estate and stocks, pension and Individual Retirement Account distributions, and Social Security. Other 1099 forms are used to report unemployment compensa-tion or state and local tax refunds.

While most of the forms that arrive in the mail have to do with income there are some that will be of help to consumers who itemize their taxes and claim deductions

The most common form in this category is the 1098, which financial institutions issue to report the interest that consumers on their home mortgages, she said Some 1098s also show real estate taxes paid from the homeowner's escrow account There's also a 1098-E, an interest statement for those paying back student loans.

People should also expect to receive statements for charitable donations," Munro said. "For donations of \$250 or more, the charity is required to give you a receipt. Many [charities] don't mail them out until January of the following year." She added: "If you've made those contri-

butions and haven't received receipts, get on the phone and ask for them. A canceled check is no longer proof for the deduction."



Some lower-income workers not receiving credit The Dallas Morning News

to give people money.

The concept is almost beyond comprehension: The Internal Revenue Service actually wants

The IRS wants more eligible taxpayers to claim the Earned Income Tax Credit, which is designed to ease the tax burden on the working noor

"It's not often that you hear the IRS is recruiting people to claim a credit," said David Williams, di-rector of the EITC program at the IRS

The most recent IRS figures show that 27 percent to 32 percent of all EITC claims had errors.

"We want everybody who qual-

credit, but we don't want to pay out the dollars on this to those who don't qualify," said IRS Commissioner Mark W. Everson. "It helps lift people out of poverty, but it can't be subject to the high error rate that it is and not be subject to criticism.

It comes down to educating taxpayers. If you're single with income below \$12,000, or married with children and income below \$36,000, it's worth checking into. That doesn't mean you qualify

There are pitfalls to watch out for. All you have to do to claim the credit is fill out a federal tax return along with the worksheet that tells you how much your credit will be. That sounds simple, but unfortunately it's pretty complicated

Nationally, 21 million low-income families qualified for the credit last year and received \$36 billion. But IRS studies indicate that millions more are eligible but fail to claim the credit.

David Williams, director of the program at the Internal Revenue Service, said slightly more than 75 percent of eligible taxpayers claim the credit.

More than 90 percent of eligible mothers with children claim the credit, he said. But you don't have to have a child to claim the credit.

The maximum credit is \$4,300 for a family with two or more children. When the tax credit exceeds the amount of taxes owed, it results in a refund.
"The EITC lifts millions of fam-

ilies above the poverty line every year," Williams said. "It becomes a supplement to their earned income

Even if you don't owe taxes, be sure to file an income tax return. That's the only way you can claim the credit.

But make sure you qualify, because the IRS monitors the pro gram closely for errors and fraud. The amount of the credit depends on your earned income, the number of children you have

To start, you must have earned

and your filing status

ployment.

"Review your circumstances over the past year," Williams said. "Don't guess whether you qualify."

The most common error is in-correctly claiming a "qualifying child," he said. You must have lived with your child for more than half the year.

"The rules for claiming a qualifying child are somewhat compli-cated." Williams said. "It's not a surprise that a number of people get them wrong."

For information on claiming the credit, go to the IRS Web site at www.irs.gov and download Publication 596, Earned Income Credit. You also may order a free copy by calling toll-free 1-800-829-3676.

YOUR MONEY

2nd airline lowers fares

American Airlines, the nation's largest carrier, is matching most of the sweeping changes Delta Air Lines made to its fare structure, which includes eliminating Saturday-night stay require-ments and lowering last-minute fares, an industry source familiar with the move said Thursday. After mimicking Delta's chang-

es in some markets Wednesday evening, AMR Corp., American's parent company, was expected to file additional rate changes Thursday morning with the Airline Tariff Publishing Company system, according to the source who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The source would not say whether American planned to cap fares across the board. 'There are some differences,'

the source said. On Wednesday, Delta Air Lines Inc. cut its most expensive fares by as much as 50 percent and eliminated other restrictions in an effort to woo business travelers and other last-minute ticket

Delta said no fare would be higher than \$499 one-way in coach class or \$599 one-way in first class under its new program.

One analyst estimated that the don't max out your cards. fare changes, if mimicked by all other U.S. carriers, could reduce the industry's annual revenue by \$2 billion to \$3 billion a year.

Credit-limit cuts could hurt score

Money Talk

Q: Until a few years ago, my late husband and I traveled a good deal and maintained a high limit on our credit cards. He has now sed away. I travel far less and no longer have a need for so much credit. I would like to have my limits reduced, but fear doing so would have a negative effect on my credit rating. Is this correct?

A: Lowering your credit limits may indeed hurt your credit score, the number lenders use to help gauge your creditworthiness. The scoring formula measures the gap between the credit you have and the amount you actually use. The

wider that gap, the better. But there is no way to determine in advance if the lowered credit limit will affect your score, according to Fair Isaac Corp., creator of the FICO credit score.

But the damage of lowering lim-its on a card or two may not be that severe if you don't use the cards that much and already have a high credit score - which is likely if you have a long credit history, are never late on your payments and

If you have reason to think your credit score may be on thin ice, on the other hand, it may be best to live with the higher limits as long as you are confident you can resist

Dear Liz: I'm an insurance pro fessional responding to the read-er who despaired because her husband's parents refused to do

any estate planning for their business which her husband runs. If the parents have any kind of a competent life insurance agent, the agent has probably been talking to them about these problems for a while.

It's possible the parents have already completed the estate planning but chose not to tell their son and daugh-ter-in-law. This is very common, especially if they don't like the daugh-ter-in-law or if there is marital discord. The parents also may

continues or may plan to sell the business when they retire and let the son fend for himself. A: If the parents are secretly planning to sell the business - ei ther when they retire or at their deaths - they're contemplating the one course of action that may

not care whether the business

be even more unfair than having no plan at all. Assuming the sale wouldn't

to retire, he would face the daunting task of starting his work life over again at middle age. If he's devoted all of his energies to run-

ning the business, he may not have the contacts or the skills to make an easy transition.

If the parents were honest about their plans, he might have time to adequately prepare. Those preparations could, of course, involve leaving

the family business which is the outcome such secretive parents may be trying to avoid. All this only under-

Liz Pulliam Weston scores how right the daughter-in-law is to worry when no clear plans have been announced

Here's another perspective: Dear Liz: As a certified public accountant, I have seen so many miserable scenarios of unnecessary expense and chaos that result from people's reluctance to plan for their deaths. Business owners can sometimes put off talking to the lawyer, but they usually have to talk to the accountant, since taxes need to be filed. The son could enlist the accountant to help put the facts to the elderly parents. The accountant will be able to show a grim picture of what could be in store for the heirs and possibly the surviv-ing spouse of the current owner. The son needs to act, since this situation can only get worse.

A: That's an excellent suggestion. Many times a trusted third party can jump-start estate-planning discussions that have been stalled by family tensions, control issues, denial or procrastination.

Here's one more thought: Dear Liz: You recently had a query about how to deal with estate planning when a small-business owner is not ready to consider succession. In our area, two universities have programs that can help with such issues, along with other topics specific to family-owned businesses Other universities around the country have similar resources. In addition, the son could hire a consultant who specializes in family businesses so that estate and succession planning are handled to benefit the owners, as well as the successors.

A: Indeed, there are more than 100 such centers in the United States alone and dozens of others worldwide, according to the Family Firm Institute, a nonprofit membership association of family business programs, educators and advisors. Visit www.ffi.org.

Liz Pulliam Weston is the author of "Your Credit Score: How to Fix, Improve and Protect the 3-Bigit Number that Shapes Your Financial Future." Questions for Money Talk can be submitted to her at 3940 Laurel Canyon Blvd. #238, Studio City, Ca 91604, or via her Web site, www.liz weston.com. She regrets that she cannot respond personally to

FRIDAY'S MARKET SUMMARY

Higi	2-week	w Na	me			Las	st	Net Chg	% Chg	% Chg	52-wk % Chg
10,868,0	7 9,708.	.40 Do	w Jones	Industria	s	10,603.9	96	-18.92	18	-1.66	+1.39
3,823.9	6 2,743.	.46 Do	w Jones	Transport	ation	3,636,7	18	-30.34	83	-4.25	+21.67
337.7				Utilities		324.6		-1.26	39	-3.07	+21.61
7,273.1	8 6,211.	.33 NY	SE Com	posite		7,057.5	51	-19.43	27	-2.66	+8.14
1,435.0			nex Inde			1,392.4	19	+4.52	+.33	-2.92	+15.94
2,191.6	0 1,750.	.82 Na	sdaq Co	mposite		2,088.6		-1.39	07	-3.99	+.68
1,217.9	0 1,060.	.72 S&	P 500			1,186.1	19	-1.70	14	-2.12	+5.73
666.9	9 548.	.29 S&	P MidC:	ap		634.7		-3.28	51	-4.31	+8.55
656.1	1 515.		ssell 200			613.2		-6.61	-1.07	-5.89	+6.61
12,024.3	6 10,268.	.52 DJ	Wilshire	5000		11,648.8	39	-24.13	21	-2.69	+6.59
	NYS				Аме					DAQ	
Most	ACTIVE	(\$1 or	MORE)	Most	ACTIVE	(\$1 or	MORE)	Most	Activ	E (\$1 o	R MORE)
Name	Vol (00)	Last	Chg	Name	Vol (00)	Last	Chg	Name	Vol (0) Las	t Chg
Lucent	792447	3,50	07	SPDR	531345	118,44	17	Nasd100Tr	121290	9 38.5	5 +.20
SpmtFON	242093	24.30	21	SemiHTr	429086	31.48	+.28	SiriusS	12016		
Pfizer	220545	26.30	+.01	iShRs2000	100196	121.86	-1.37	Intel	82095	4 22.81	+.34
NortelN If	197469	3.34	03	DIIA Diam	84101	105.90	- 14	Microsoft	6691	1 26.63	- 18

 18010 15.25
 -32 (Shlagan
 53711 10.54
 -3.6 (Stor
 5215 18.72
 -13

 169571 4.25
 -4.90 (Sixel)
 4607 46085
 81.67
 -1.35 (Smiffere
 46218 462
 462 + 40

 165715 19.52
 -2.20 (Sixel)
 4428 34.97
 -2.8 Oracle
 45367 11.33
 +11

 169311 36.40
 -2.8 (Sixel)
 -2.8 (Sixel)
 4308 47.00
 -8 Asstrom
 40783 22.84
 +3.6

 170477 20.84
 -1.2 (Bernadded)
 2705 2.85
 -3.3 (Sminaftet
 303420
 22.79
 +61

KEY DEFENSE STOCKS						
Name	Div	PE	Last	Chg 9	KChg Kchg	
Alliant Technosystem	-	16	64.01	+.01	-2.1	
Armor Holdings		30	45.45	+.05	-3.3	
Roeing	1.00	15	50.31	17	-2.8	
Computer Sciences		18	54.02	+.09	-4.2	
Engineered Sup Sys	.07	21	56.62	+.01	-4.4	
General Dynamics	1.44	17	99.81	+ 36	-46	
General Electric	.88	24	36.00	22	-1.4	
Haliburton	.50	-	37.98	- 27	-22	
Harris Corp.	.48	26	56.96	71	-7.8	
Allied Signal	.83	21	34.21	13	-2.4	
1-3 Communications	40	21	69.01	27	-3.4 -5.8	
Lockheed Martin	1.00	20	54,77	+.26	-1.4	
NorthrpG s	.92	19	53.05	11	-2.4	
Raytheon	.80	41	36,41	11	-6.2	
Rockwell Intl.	66	21	46.02	56	-7.1	
Segua Corp.	.00	37	61.00	+.37	2	
Texas Instruments	.10	21	22.92	+.12	-6.9	
Textron Inc.	1.40	30	70.02	12	-5.1	
Haited Yorkesteeins	1.40	10	100.02	1.00	2.1	

KEY MUTUAL FUNDS					
Name	NAV	Chg.	%Ret.		
Fidelity Invest: GroInc	37.66	06	-1.3		
Fidelity Invest: GroCo x	54.04	+.07	-3.7		
Amer Century Inv: Ultra	28.71	+.03	-2.8		
Fidelity Spartan: Eqidx	41.96	06	-2.0		
Putnam Funds A: GrinA p Fidelity Invest: A Mor	19.03 16.04	05 01	-1.6 -1.0		
Frank/Temp Frnk A: SMCpGrA	32.59	- 14	-4.2		
AIM Investments A: Const p	22.10	01	-32		
Fidelity Invest: USBI	11.11		-2		
Fidelity Invest: Ovrsea	34.08	16	-3.2		
Fidelity Advisor T: GrOppT	29.78	06	-2.3		
Fidelity Advisor T: EqInT e	27.67	16 04	-1.8		
Scudder Funds S: GroincS Putnam Funds A: GibEgty p	8.25	04	-2.0 -2.2		
AIM Investments A: WeingA p	12.69		-2.7		
AIM Investments A: ChartA p	12.50	- 02	-2.1		
Merrill Lynch I: BalCapl	26.32	03	-1.3		
Scudder Funds S: Intl FdS	42.92	10	-2.8		
Fidelity Advisor T: OvrseaT	17.09	08	-3.3		
Lord Abbett A: DevGtA p Scudder Funds S: Income S	14.97	11	-5.2		
Scudder Funds S: Income S Merrill Lynch I: USGytMta	10.26		-2		
Scudder Funds S: Devel	18.85	- 04	-31		
Putnam Funds A: GlGvA p	12.99	03	-15		

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates
Euro costs (Jan. 10)\$1.3569
Euro costs (Jan. 10)\$1,3569
Dollar buys (Jan. 10)€0.737
British pound (Jan. 10)\$1.93
Japanese yen (Jan. 10)102.00
South Korean won (Jan. 8)1,031.00
Commercial rates
Bahrain (Dinar)0.377
British pound\$1.8688
Canada (Dollar)1.2323
Denmark (Krone)5.6248
Egypt (Pound)6.0702
Eŭro\$1.305/0.7663
Egypt (Pound)
Hungary (Forint)188.75
Iceland (Krona)63.585
Israel (Shekel)4.3937
Japan (Yen)104.88
Kuwait (Dinar)0.2919
Norway (Krone)6.2188
Philippines (Peso)56.17
Saudi Arabia (Rival)3.75
Singapore (Dollar)1.649
South Korea (Won)1,049.00
Switzerland (Franc)1.1856
Thailand (Baht)39.25
Turkey (New Lira)1,4045
(Military exchange rates are those
available to customers at military bank-
ing facilities in the country of issuance

ing facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. (e.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military bank-bank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign British pound, with the service of the purchase of the pu

PRECIOUS METALS

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate5
Discount rate
Federal funds market rate2
3-month bill2
30-year bond4
Sources: The Associated Press, Bank

ents and Sensibility Money tip of the day

Reassess spending habits

NEW YORK - After the spend, spend, spend" mentality of the holidays, it's time to reassess where your money goes.

If you didn't make a budget for the holiday season, you may be discovering, as the bills mount higher, that you've overspent. As Jason R. Rich writes in the new book "Make Your Paycheck Last," you can be thrifty without being cheap.

Just ask yourself these questions before every purchase:

- What priority would I give this expense: absolutely necessary, important, not critical or frivolous
- What benefits will I receive from this purchase?
- Do I have the money to afford this?
- Can I save any money by

making this purchase with a coupon, at a sale price or other discount?

- Is there a similar product or
- service that will cost less? ■ Am I sure that I'm getting

the best value?

- Are there any additional costs for making this purchase. such as interest that will be accrued on a credit card or fees
- from my bank? ■ Given these additional costs, is my purchase still worth

Rich recommends that you make a table of expenses to save

on for next year while the holidays are still fresh in your mind. Calculate how much you spent on gifts, gift wrappings, ship-ping costs, food, decorations, party clothes, holiday activities, travel, entertainment and other



Discover why so many people are saying...



Sunday Horoscope

party, or perhaps the word "gathering" is more fitting, as this is no out-of-control event. It's a dignified, formal affair. Venus and Mercury enter fashionably late, inspiring us to take a more serious approach to relationships. Notice love's role in your life. How do you love, and how do you

know you are loved? TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (January 9). You build on your fantastic attributes this year and kick some of your less fantastic habits in the process. A lucky deal comes through for you at the end of this month Romantically, you'll be more aware of what you're giving and therefore ready to ac-

nailed in April. Retreat in August. Love signs are Aries and Gemini. ARIES (March 21-April 19). The stars activate your envy button. Someone rich makes life seem

cept better, too. Commitments are

easy from your point of view - as if all you have to do is make enough money and everything else will follow. Look deeper for truth and meaning

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). They say domestication is the

enemy of romance, but you can prove them wrong. You've got a way of arranging your environment to bring about amorous feelings What style. What class.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21).

Someone stunning captures your heart - for the moment, that is, You could lose all your senses and pull an "Oops! ... I did it again" a la the Britney Spears song. Make sure your "captor" knows you're not really serious.

CANCER (June 22-July 22).

Your mental picture lights up - it's your chance to be downright scholarly. Fascinating information drifts onto your path. Soak it up like a child with an open mind who doesn't know his or her limitations

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You're in no mood to deny your feelings. While you're looking longingly in someone's direction, someone else is looking longingly toward you. These games of triangular love

could go on for days

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Noble pursuits are necessary to sustain life. And so are frivolous pursuits. Engage equally in acts of big importance and graceful insignificance - although you may find it

difficult to distinguish Holiday Mathis between the two.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct.

23). It's the perfect time to take a risk in love - it has to be a real risk though, the kind that makes your palms sweat. If you know your gesture is going to be well re ceived, it doesn't count. The very essence of romance is uncertainty

SCORPIO (Oct.

24-Nov. 21). You're aligning with your sensuality. You find beauty in natural occurrences and music in the soft wind and gentle rain. Re store your balance by taking time alone to appreciate the elements in vour own way

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec.

21). Your social acumen goes deeper than just being a witty participant in the right place with the right neonle. When friends come to you in a broken-down state, you offer love in the form of a listening. non-judgmental ear.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan.

19). Relationships are an intricate puzzle, and you'll fit new pieces together today. It feels like you've been asking the same question since the dawn of time. Well. you're finally heard, and you'll get your

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Romantic risk is favored. You are just imagining the pain you anticipate will happen if you put your heart on the line. But if you think it's going to burt it probably will. The trick is to hold still just when you feel like running.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).

There's a chance to show great mercy. Such an opportunity doesn't come along every day, so seize the moment. You can make a difference to the person who needs your help the most

Creators Syndicate

'Nightmares' aren't from horses

Why do we call bad or scary dreams "nightmares"

Because of the similarity in form between the second element of the compound "nightmare" and the noun "mare," meaning "a female horse," many people have assumed a connection between the two words

Actually, however, the "-mare" of "nightmare" is a survival of another "mare" found in Old En-

"Mare" was a word in English as early as the 8th century, but it was obsolete by the 18th century. Old English "mare" means "an evil spirit thought to oppress people during sleep." The compound "nightmare" first appears in Middle English in the 13th century, in a sense much the same as "mare" in Old English

Not until the 16th century was the meaning of "nightmare" extended to refer to a frightening or oppressive dream, probably from the belief or suggestion that such dreams were caused by evil spir-

This column was prepared by the editors of Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, Tenth Edition. Readers may send questions to Merriam-Webster's Wordwatch, P.O. Box 281, 47 Federal St.,

Make certain neighbor gets point that she's far too nosy

Dear Abby: How does one deal with a nosy neighbor? "Miss Nosy" looks through my mail, and I caught her red-handed with a former neighbor's mail which she had opened, read and apparently hoarded. I didn't confront her Dear Abby because I had just moved next door and

didn't want to start a Miss Nosy claims she goes into my mailbox to make sure our postman hasn't accidentally put something for her in there. Doesn't she know that if he did, I'd give it to her? If someone

comes to my door. Miss Nosy calls and demands to know who it is and as much about his or her life history as I'm willing to share. She also asks me questions that are far too personal. She is elderly, but I don't think that's a valid excuse for her behavior.

I'm considering replacing my mailhoy with one that locks so that only I can get my mail out.

- Invaded in Tennessee Dear Invaded: What your neighbor is doing is called mail tampering, and it's a felony. A locked mailbox is the surest, safest solution to your problem. You would be doing your neighhors a tremendous favor if you

called the local postal inspector's office and reported what the an is doing. They may not haul Miss Nosy off to the pokey, but she'll be sent a letter saving that what she's doing is a felony, and if a check should go missing,

she'll be blamed for it. P.S. Suggest to the woman that since she doesn't seem to have enough to occupy her. she should start a Neigh borhood Watch proomm

Dear Abby: How do you get a child to stop biting? My sister's little boy, "Alan," is 1½. My son, "Lee," is 2. Every time they are together,

Alan bites Lee out of anger Sometimes the bite remains for days - and once it stayed a whole week. Lee does not bite his cousin

back. Since we are a close family, the children are together almost every day. My sister is ashamed of her son's bullying. Do you have any

solutions? - Frustrated in Louisiana Dear Frustrated: For the next month or so, you and your sister should make a point of watching the children closely. When Alan becomes aggressive and starts to hite, his mother should make eve

contact with him and say, "Stop

it! We don't do that! If you're going to bite, you can't play with Then the child should be separated from his cousin for a 15- to 30-minute time-out. Once Alan understands there are consequences for his actions, the biting should stop.

Dear Abby: My husband, "Brad," and I have a beautiful daughter. "Annie." who was born after a difficult labor and an emergency C-section in April

We're now expecting our sec ond child, who is due next April just a few days after Annie's birthday. (This birth will also be Caesarean) Brad thinks it would be great to have the baby on Annie's birthday, but I'm not so sure. Do you think it's best for each child to have their own birthday, or would it form spe-cial bond between siblings to share a birthday? - Undecided Mama in Ohio

Dear Undecided Mama: I'm pleased to oblige. Children are individuals, and each child should have one day to be the sole center of attention. Although it might be more convenient to celebrate both birthdays together. I recommend against it. Letters for this column — with your name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles CA 90069. Readers can write to Abby on the Internet Letter — the Abby on the Internet Mearabby Universal Press Syndicate

Daughter must deal with dad, his dislike for her boyfriend

Dear Annie: I am a good kid. I'm 19 years old and a freshman in college, planning to be a veterinarian someday. I make good grades, I don't do drugs, don't drink and don't party. I am not

having sex, and I go to church every Sunday. My father, however, complains about my

choice of boyfriend "Kyle," whom I have been dating off and on for five years, is not perfect, but he treats me like a queen, isn't abusive and doesn't pressure me about sex. Right now, Kyle has no job and doesn't have the money to go to college, but he's working hard to develop the skills needed for a good career, maybe in the military.

Kyle and I had sex before re-devoting ourselves to our religion. My father holds this against us and, consequently, dislikes Kyle immensely. Dad insists that I date other people and gets angry when Kyle and I go out.

Dad also thinks Kyle is not good enough for me because he cannot support me. Since we aren't planning to get married anytime soon. I'm not worried

about finances, not to mention my salary as a veterinarian ought to help a lot.

Here's the problem: Kyle's parents have invited me to join them for a vacation at a cabin they are renting. I have agreed to go, and my father is furious. I am old enough to

make my own choices Annie's Mailbox but still young enough to be subjected to punishment, and my vengeful father will probably take away my car. Am I supposed to be

an obedient daughter and follow his rules or stop being a child and make decisions for myself? I need your help.

- Trying Hard Dear Trying: You sound like a sensible responsible voung

However, by our count, you have been dating Kyle since you were 14. We can understand why your father thinks you should broaden your dating experience. Still, you are indeed old enough to make your own decisions and that means you must be willing to accept the consequences, including the loss of car privileges.

Dear Annie: My daughter is in third grade. The teacher permits the children to use the bathroom only at lunch or recess, but not during class time. Sometimes the kids eat or drink during the day and cannot wait that long. When my daughter comes home from school, she runs to the toilet. One little girl wet herself in class The students are awarded

'table points" if they do extra things in the classroom, and they can use these points to go to the bathroom, if need be. But if they are desperate and must go anyway, their group is penalized. I think this is cruel, but I don't

want my daughter to be singled out if I complain to the principal. Am I making too much of this?

Pee Patrol in Pasadena, Calif. Dear Pasadena: Children

should never be penalized for needing to use the bathroom. If you don't want your daughter singled out, organize a group of concerned parents to approach the principal and insist this outrageous policy be changed immediately.

Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to anniesmailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd. Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045. Creators Syndicate

RELIGION

Big-box orthodox: It's kosher, but ...

The Washington Post

CHICAGO he sign in the window of the kosher Chinese restaurant looks for-lorn. Hand-lettered and slightly faded from the strong winter sun, it is a plea to customers to remain steadfast against a powerful invader

imische owned groceries and restaurants," the sign reads. Above it, inside a thin circle is the word Jewel. A diagonal line runs through it, the internation-al symbol of opposition.

Costco are seeking competitive advantage in a crowded sales "Please patronize the real jew-els of the community. The hesector by catering to specialty audiences Roughly 18,000 supermarkets carry products prepared accord-ing to Orthodox Judaism's dietary code, fueling a market that has been growing by 12 to 15 percent for nearly a decade,

market

companies

according to Kosher Today, an industry

- nationwide. Large

sons, Wal-Mart, Safeway and

including Albert

trade paper Yakov Yarmove, the Albertsons executive who is overseeing Jewel's kosher project, said it's all about creating a point of differentiation to make sure we've got a competitive edge. So our stores aren't cook-

"Years the Wal-Marts, Costcos, Targets and Kmarts of the world focused on general merchandise. they're now getting into the food business in a very strong way," Yarmove said, "We're not trying to hurt a local business or a local community, but at the same time we're listening to the local community and their needs."

Shortly after Jewel remodeled its store in September, an influential group of rabbis tried to shore up the kosher stores by mailing an ap peal to thousands of Jews, urging them to stick together and shop at the smaller stores that have long served

the community.

Devon Avenue, babel of tongues and nationalities running west from Lake Michigan, has been shedding Jew ish shops, bakeries and

restaurants since long before Jewel opened its kosher emporium. Narrow storefronts that once housed kosher butch. ers are now as likely to be an Indian grocery, an Afghan restaurant or a Russian medical supply company.

The reasons for this are as varied as shifting demographics and changing consumer habits. The business reasons are as natural as the dynamics of an an-

cient bazaar.
"We live in a free-market society. People will go to whoever serves them best," said Don Nussbaum, who teaches at a Orthodox boarding school and works part time at Rosenblum's World of Judaica on Devon. "If that takes away from local business then maybe the local businesses aren't doing their best.



Chandrashekar Narayanan, left, and senior priest Janak Shukla lead a prayer service Jan. 2 at the Dallas/ Fort Worth Hindu Temple Society in Irving, Texas, for victims of the tsunami in Asia.

Tsunami grief healed by rituals of varied beliefs

By Jeffrey Weiss The Dallas Morning News

DALLAS embers of the Dallas/Fort Worth Hindu Temple held a deepa puja Sunday morning. The "prayer of light," honoring victims of southern Asia's earth. quake and tsunami, felt something like a candlelight vigil in any church or synagogue

But the Hindu religious response to massive human tragedy is essentially different. The flower-draped altar and oil candles surrounded by elaborate statues of Indian deities were clearly not part of a Christian or Jewish service. And differences in how the faiths try to explain unimaginable suffering are more than just ritual.

Most of the victims of the disaster follow faith traditions unfamiliar to most Americans: Hindus in India Muslims in Indonesia and Buddhists in Sri Lanka Following catastrophe, the American religious

mainstream generally offers a broadly uniform message of comfort: Trust in the loving and just God. He has a meaningful plan for life. We may not understand that meaning until we are with him in the hereafter. Turn to Job and other books in the Bible for clues, if not answers. But the religious leaders for most of this disas-

ter's victims deliver very different messages. Buddhism may be the most foreign tradition for

Americans. Buddhists have no trouble reconciling worldly tragedy with a loving god, because they don't believe in any god. "It is not by any particular god" that such trage-

dies occur, said Dr. Bhante Gunaratana, a Sri Lan-kan monk who is the president of the Bhavana Society and abbot of its monastery in West Virginia. "A compassionate god would never do anything like Buddhists believe the universe operates on a

strict system of karma, moral justice that spans generations. Bad things that happen to a person in this life are the result of bad things the person did in this life - or in myriad earlier lives. That means there are never "innocent victims."

The goal of the kind of Buddhism practiced in Sri Lanka - Theravada - is for the soul to become so enlightened that it escapes the inevitable pain and suffering of the cycle of death and rebirth

Like Buddhism. Hinduism accepts the idea of

karma that passes from one lifetime to another. But Hinduism, the faith followed by most people in India, also includes a belief in a loving god who affects peoples' lives

Unlike most Western faiths, Hinduism has no universally recognized authorities, texts or doctrines. Rituals and practice change from region to region.

But Hindus generally agree that there is one all-powerful god who manifests in many forms, male and female. And that god can sometimes send messages through natural events.

Sunday's deepa puia in Dallas, attended by more than 100 devotees, included a prayer for the dead to that single, highest god: "The light symbolizes the divine power of God, the brightest and most sacred of all. Similarly, the light that emanates from the de-parted souls is also powerful and sacred. We pray that these two lights merge, symbolizing the unification of the immortal soul of God."

Indonesia has more Muslims than any other country in the world, almost 210 million. The Indonesian island of Sumatra was closest to the center of the earthquake. Residents of Aceh, the quake-racked northern part, follow a particularly orthodox Muslim practice. Muslim evulanations for tragedy share elements

of Jewish and Christian belief. That's not surprising, given Islam shares roots with those faiths. omewhat altered versions of Jesus, Mary, Moses Abraham and other figures familiar to Jews and Christians are found in the Ouran.

Like Christianity and Judaism. Islam teaches that God is the ruler of the world and has a plan that is expressed even in tragedy, said Imam Yusuf Kavakci of the Dallas Central Mosque in Richardson.

"We believe that everything is in the taqdir - destiny - predetermined by Allah, the creator," he

The Quran teaches that God tests people through events on Earth, he said. Tragedies can also be a signal from Allah. And innocents who suffer in this life will be rewarded the Day of Judgment with a better position in heaven, he said

News accounts from the disaster zone show that people are still dealing mostly with survival issues - food, shelter and injury. But they also show funerals and religious services. Even surrounded by unimaginable catastrophe, people are turning to the rituals and routines of faith.

And while each religion teaches different things about tragedy, all attempt to deal with the universal human experience of grief and sorrow.



At Kol Tuv Kosher Foods in Chicago, Chayim Knobloch says he has lost "a fairly significant percentage of business." A struggle being played out in north Chicago — pitting family-owned kosher shops against big supermarket chains - is part of a larger play for Jewish shoppers, and the growing ethnic food market nationwide.

Jewel is a well-established supermarket chain that caused no heartache and invited no wrath until a couple of months ago, when it suddenly bought a huge billboard on Chicago's North Side to announce the opening of a gleaming kosher food department at a nearby store.

To Jewel and its parent Albertsons, the move was a straightforward play for customers and profits To the family-owned kosher

shops along Devon Avenue and in nearby Skokie, it was a threat and an affront.

"I've definitely lost a fairly significant percentage of business," said Chayim Knobloch, proprietor of Kol Tuv Kosher Foods, a store and deli located across the street from the billboard. "I've begun trimming ex-



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For the Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC) Support Center - Europe For the oldering washingtone that center (UMUL) support Center – Lucye To be an analyst, schrichicia, and trainer for the BMC applications throughout Europe and Southwest 45s. This position will support vertices DDU data through the control of the support vertices DDU data to receive the control of the support vertices and the control of the Mondore 2010 operating system and Oracle RDMS is required. Analysts will provide on-site and telephonic ned-sure application, communication, and hardware support in addition to training. Superior verbal and written communication skills are required. The ability to use MS Office refressional tools is also required. Position is located at Taylor. Barricks in Mannhiem, GE. Logistics Support is provided to those who qualify. If your capabilities are described above please send your resume via fax or email.

John B. Corrin EDS/DMDC Support Center - Europe DSN 486-7672 Ä Fax: +49-(0)63 71-867672

Telecommunications and Information

Systems Corporation

/TESA)

Individual shall have a Bachelors degree in Business Management or Communications -

Electronics. Individual must have 10 years of progressive experience in military strategic commu-nications equipment maintenance. At least five of the 10 years shall be in managing and super-

vising a multinational maintenance work force. This individual: Performs a variety of complex tech-nical functions related to the support of engineering activities such as set-up, operation, mainte

nance, modification, circuit testing, calibration and troubleshooting of electronic or electromechanical systems, experimental design circuitry, prototype models or specialized test equip-ment. Directs the efforts of the Maintenance Support Teams and Support Maintenance Services

Ensures that all the equipment regained, serviced, and retained at the regain facilities is aligned IAW U.S. military or FAA technical specifications, Provides technical direction to the U.S. military and ensures supporting documentation is correctly completed and filled IAW U.S. military standards Directs, advises, and assists supervisors and technicians in troubleshooting support equipment

lerfaces with the Project Director, contracting officials, and subordinate managers/technician scuss technical issues associated with the operations and repair of systems and equipment

Location: maninerin
Must have eight years experience performing the highest level of depot repair of communications systems equipment, of which five shall be developing computer programs
used with ATE equipment and one year experience using computers in the Windows

NT or UNIX environments. Must have an Associates degree in Electronics or Communications or have completed 36 months of advance U.S. Military or civilian training in digital electronics of which 24 months must be from a US military approved

MANTECH OPMAS-E

Manager, Maintenance Location: Mannheim

Vacancies / Maintenance Jan 05

ManTech is currently accepting resumes for the following:

Specialist Automated Test Equipment (TESA)

Specialist Sr. C-E Maintenance (TESA)

Telephone Repair Specialist (Temporary)

Specialist Power Systems



Requisition # 6400RB

Jobs Offered

American company seeking... art time work and flexible hours available.
Valid I.D. card necessary. formation please contact John at the following: tmail.com or 0049 (0)6221-893924

Data Monitor

WESTAR Aerospace and Defense Group, Inc., (COBRO Division) is seeking individuals to fill Data Monitor technical positions at Kaiserslautern and Mannheim, Germany. Must also be a U.S. citizen, have a minimum of three years military experience on Wheel / Track vehicles and knowledge of the U.S. Army's Supply System. Knowledge of Windows, Microsoft Office, and Database entry a plus. Candidate selected will be subject to a U.S. Government personnel security investigation and will be required to meet eligibility for access to classified information, Join the Westar Team and realize the rewards of a competitive benefits package and professional work environment

Fax resume in confidence to: DSN 474-3205 or CIV 09641-83-3205. Email cobhrogta@tor mail to COBRO, Postfach 1251, 92650 Grafi

Jobs Offered

MPRI

Individuals must have extensive knowledge in the Maintenance and Logistics of U. S Army tactical combat vehicles. Recent Motor Pool experience with background skills within the Army Vehicle Maintenance Program is necessary. Familiarity of the Procurement, Supply, and Transportation disciplines is desirable. An active team player with excellent written and verbal communication abilities and a strong analytical talent is required. A proficient computer user skill of Microsoftis Office 2000 Professional Suite is necessary. Employment will be in the Kaiserslautern area. If interested, fax resume to: 0631-414-3408 or e-mail to: hbenco@t-online de

Logistics Analysts

Standard Issue Meets A New Standard

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- 164 Motorcycles
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CENTRAL TEXAS COLLEGE

Employment Opportunity

Central Texas College is currently accepting resumes for instructor positions. The following positions are available

Heavy Expanded Mobility Tactical Truck (HEMTT) Maintenance Training Instructor for the HEM-311 Course and an MD-310 M1A1 course instructor

Courses will be conducted at the 7th ATC Combined Arms Training Center (CATC) in Vilseck, Germany.

terested personnel please contact CTC, Attn Gary R. Kindred, Unit 28038, APO, AE 09112 or DSN 476-2553/2542 Civilian Tel: 09662-83-2553/2542 or Email: gary.kindred@europe.ctcd.edu

630

Administrative Assistant

Leading IT Company seeks...

Software Engineers to work in Mannheim, Germany.

We are looking for individuals with experience in

Remedy Development & Administration and Oracle

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related field is preferred, Approx, 10% travel required.

Must have Active US DOD Secret clearance or higher to be considered.

Apply to: www.artelinc.com

or email resume to: dhenderson@artelinc.com

American electronics and communications firm seeking Administrative Assistant with excellent English and German language skills for support of

Fax: +49 (0)711 - 729 2479 or **DSN:** 421 - 2479 Email: jobs@mcdean-europe.com

Requisition # 6737BB Requisition #7114RR

Requisition #6805RR

All applicants for above positions must be U.S. Citizens, qualify or currently hold a U.S. security clearance, and must be able to qualify for and operate Government

Applicants should visit Mar/Tech's website at www.mantech.com employment opnor tunities for additional information on the specified requisition #.

Applicants then enter their resume on the electronic system and notify carolyn.momingstar@mantech.com confirming the request for consideration; specify position title and Requisition # on subject line.











SCOREBOARD

AFN TV & Radio

AFN-Sports, 9 a.m.-College basketball: Ari-cona at Stanford (did). AFN-Atlantic, 1 p.m.-College basketball: femple at Duke (did). AFN-Sports, 1 p.m.-NBA: Denver at San An-onio (did).

AFN-Atlantic, Pacific and Radio, 7 p.m.-NFL: AFC Wildcard Playoffs, Denver at

AFN-Sports, 7 p.m.-Bowling: PBA Geico Open.

AFN-Sports, 8:30 p.m. Motorcycle racing: THO Supercross, Anaheim (did).

AFN-Atlantic, Pacific and Radio, 10:30 p.m. NFL: NFC Wildcard Playoffs, Minnesota at Green Bay.

Monday

AFN-Sports, 1 am. Golf: Mercedes Championship, final round.
AFN-Matmit. 2 am. College basketball: De-Paul women at Marquette.
AFN-Sports, 9 am. College basketball: AFN-Sports, 9 am. College basketball: AFN-Sports, 12:30 pm. NFL: AFC Wildcard Playoffs, Deriver at Indianapolis (did).
AFN-Sports, 6:30 pm. NFL: NFC Wildcard Playoffs, Mensoda at Green Bay (did).

All times Central European Time; dld indi-cates delayed broadcast. All listings are sub-ject to change. Visit www.myafn.net for more information.

Pro football

NFL playoffs

Wild-card Playoffs Saturday, Jan. 8 at San Diego
Sunday, Jan. 9
Denver at Indianapolis
Minnesota at C

sota at Green Bay Divisional Playoffs Saturday, Jan. 15 San Diego, N.Y. Jets or Denver at Pitts-

Green Bay, Seattle or St. Louis at Atlanta Sunday, Jan. 16 Seattle, St. Louis or Minnesota at Philadelphia Indianapolis, N.Y. Jets or San Diego at New England

College basketball

Men's AP Top 25 schedule

No. 1 Illinois at Purdue
No. 3 North Carolina vs. No. 22 Maryland
No. 4 Wake Forest at Clemson
No. 5 Duke vs. Temple
No. 6 Syracuse vs. Seton Hall
No. 7 Oklahoma State at Texas Tech
No. 9 Georgia Tech vs. Virginia No. 10 Connecticut at Georgetow No. 11 Gonzaga at St. Mary's, Cal No. 12 Washington at UCLA No. 13 Arizona at Stanford

NO. 13 Arzona da stanforu No. 14 lowa at Ohio State No. 16 Pittsburgh at Rutgers No. 17 Louisville vs. Texas Christian No. 18 Mississippi State at Mississippi No. 19 Alabama vs. LSU No. 20 Michigan State vs. Northwester No. 21 West Virginia vs. St. John's No. 25 Cincinnal at Salnt Louis

No. 23 Cincinnati at Saint Louis No. 24 George Washington at Duquesne No. 25 Boston College vs. Providence Sunday's games No. 2 Kansas at No. 8 Kentucky No. 15 Texas vs. Baylor

Friday's men's scores

Carnegie-Mellon 66, NYU 63
DeSales 64, Averett 53
DeSales 64, Averett 53
DeSales 64, Averett 53
Emira 59, Harthick 55
Fairleigh Dickinson 79, St. Francis, Pa. 52
John Jay 61, Hunter 51
Marist 77, Siena 66
Oswego 51, 76, St. I avere Oswego St. 76, St. Lawrence 67 Penn St.-Behrend 58, Penn St.-Altoona 46

Penn St.-Behrend 58, Penn St.-Altoo Pitt.-Greensburg 74, La Roche 71 St. John Fisher 77, Nazareth, N.Y. 54 St. Vincent 86, Roberts Wesleyan 72 Staten Island 73, Medgar Evers 57 Utica 68, Ithaca 56 Vs. Correcognical by 70

Utica 68, Ithaca 56
Va. Commonwealth 70, Towson 58
SOUTH
Florida Memorial 84, Ind. South Bend 80
Gardner-Webb 69, Campbell 66
Palm Beach Atlantic 70, Olivet Nazarene 67
Troy 56, Stetson 53
MIDWEST
Bendijl St. 76, Concordia, St.P. 65

DePauw 75, Oglethorpe 53 Dickinson St. 87, Valley City St. 56 Dubuque 67, Faith Baptist Bible 57 Evansville 92, N. Iowa 73 Dubuque GF, Faith Baptist Bible 57
Evansyllie ZR, Navo 21 Pete 57
Mary BI, Black Hills St. 68
Mary BI, Black Hills St. 68
Minot St. 90, Mayvilli St. 63, Navo 21
Nebrasia-Nearney K3, Adams St. 72
Nebrasia-Nearney K3, Adams St. 73
Nebrasia-Nearney K3, Adams St. 73
Nebrasia-Nearney K3, Marinot St. 74
Nebrasia-Nearney K3, Marinot St. 74
Nebrasia-Nearney K3, Marinot St. 74
Nebrasia-Nearney K3, Navo 21
Nebrasia-Nearney K3, N

Montana-Western 89, Montana St.-North-n 80, OT

rn 80, OT
Pepperdine 83, San Diego 67
Utah Valley St. 75, Longwood 57
TOURNAMENT
Sig Makofski-Union Invitational
First Round

Wesleyan, Conn. 63, Connecticut (EXHIBITION Northern St., S.D. 77, Wayne St. 69 cut Coll 59

Women's AP Top 25 fared

Friday LSU (13-1) did not play. Next: vs. No. 17 Georgia, Saturday.

2. Duke (14-1) did not play. Next: vs. No. 25

2. Fuke (i.e.) Vid. noc t July. Next: vs. No. 25 Virgina Teh. Sundly, 3. Baylor (11-1) did not play, Next: vs. No. 7 4. Motre Dame (12-1) did not play. Next: at 4. Motre Dame (12-1) did not play. Next: at 5. North Carolina (12-1) did not play. Next: at No. 21 Maryland, Sundly, vs. No. 18 lows, Surridy, 7. Texas (8-3) did not play. Next: at No. 3 Baylor, Saturdiya.

saturday. nford (12-2) beat Arizona State 68-57. Next: at Arizona, Sunday. 9. Ohio State (13-2) did not play. Next: vs.

erty, Sunday. I. Tennessee (9-3) did not play. Next: at 15 Connecticut, Saturday.

10. Tennessee (9-3) did not play. Next: at. 0.15 Connecticut, Saturday. 11. Mirmesota (12-2) did not play. Next: vs. 11. Mirmesota (12-2) did not play. Next: vs. 12. Treast Tech (10-2) did not play. Next: at bidahoma State, Saturday. 13. Boston College (11-1) did not play. Next: vs. Villanova, Wednesday, Jan. 12. 14. Rutgers (9-2) did not play. Next: at St. Ohm's, Saturday. 13. Connecticut (8-3) did not play. Next: vs. 15. Connectic

5. Connecticut (8-3) αια ποι μιαχ. Νέλι. νο. . 10 Tennessee, Saturday. .6. Vanderbilt (11-2) did not play. Next: vs.

South Carolina, Sunday. 17. Georgia (12-3) did not play. Next: at No. 15U, Saturday. 18. Iowa (13-1) did not play. Next: at No. 6 Michigan State, Sunday. 19. DePaul (11-2) did not play. Next: at Mar-quette, Sunday. Sunday. nsas State (9-3) did not play. Next: at 20 K

20. Karsas State (9-3) did not play, Next: at Karsas, Saturdy, 20. did not play, Next: vs. 21. Maryland (10-2) did not play, Next: vs. 22. U.C.L. (10-3) beat Washington State 89-69. Next: at Washington, Sunday, 22. New Mexico (10-1) did not play, Next: vs. Michigan, Sunday, did not play, Next: vs. Michigan, Sunday, 25. Virginia Tech (11-2) did not play, Next: at No. 2 Duke, Sunday.

Friday's women's scores

Allegheny 62, Earlham 39 Brandels 60, Rochester 45 Charlotte 74, Saint Louis i Coast Guard 67, Smith 49 Fairfield 74, Siena 69 George Washington 90, Grove City 72, Juniata 5: Hartwick 75, Elmira 68 ington 90 Vale 50 Hunter 54, John Jay 31 Ithaca 58, Utica 53

Averett 54, Peace 43
Bryan 83, Bluefield 58
East Carollina 60, Memphis 47
Houston 55, Tulane 54
Richmond 65, Dayton 57
South Florida 67, Louisville 59
TCU 81, Southern Miss. 43
UAB 63, Cincinnati 45
Buena Vista 71, Mount Mart vi

UAB 30, Cincinnal 45 Separa Visit Separa Vis Nebraska-Kearney 83, Adams St. 73 Presentation 58, Northland 56

Valley City St. 77, Dickinson St. 69 FAR WEST Arizona 80, California 69
Colorado Mines 51, Colo-Colo. Springs 40
Great Falls 92, Montana Tech 76
Montana St.-Northern 88, Montana-West-m 87

rn 87 N.M. Highlands 79, Colorado Christian 67 San Diego St. 63, E. Washington 59 Southern Cal 62, Washington 52 Stanford 68, Arizona St. 57 UCLA 89, Washington St. 69 Whitworth 58, Linfield 53

ucu. e g., Washington St. 69
Whitworth Ss. Infried 53
TOURNAMENTS
BURNAMENTS

Lady Monarch Classic First Round Kings, Pa. 60, Misericordia 34 Salisbury 74, Susquehanna 69 Rinso Marquette Tournam

First Round
Alvernia 77, DeSales 64
Lebanon Valley 65, Keystone 56 Lebanon Valley 65, Keystone 56 Starters Moravian Winter Clas First Round Moravian 95, Rosemont 38 EXHIBITION Northern St., S.D. 76, Wayne St. 67

Golf

Mercedes Championships

At Plantation Course at Kapalua Kapalua, Hawaii Purse: \$5.3 million Yardage: 7,263; Par: 73 Second Round

Vijay Singh Mike Weir 66-65-131 70-63-133 -15 -13 n Kave Sergio Garcia Chad Campbell Tiger Woods 69-67-136 -10 68-68-136 -10 Tiger Woods Stewart Cink Stuart Appleby Retief Goosen David Toms Vaughn Taylor Joey Sindelar John Daly Heath Slocum Craig Parry Adam Scott 68-68-136 74-64-138 71-67-138 71-67-138 69-69-138 Woody Austin Bart Bryant 69-72-141 69-72-141 Jonathan Byrd Zach Johnson 72-70-142 72-70-142 76-68-144 72-72-144 73-71-144 74-71-145 73-72-145 n Ames 72-73-145 74-74-148

Tennis

ASB Classic

ASE Urassile

Saturday

ALASE Bank Termin Centre

ALASE Bank Termin Centre

ALASE Bank Termin Centre

ALASE Bank Termin Centre

Bank Termin Centre

Singles

Amy Frazier (1), Linted Saturds, 7-6 (i), 6-4, my FraSaturds, 7-6, 6-4, 5-4, 5-6, 6-4, 4-4, my Fra
Saturds, 7-7, 7-6, 6-4, 7-7, 6-6, 4-4, my Fra
Linted Saturds, 7-7, 6-6, 6-4, my Fra
Saturds, 7-7, 6-6, 6-4, my F

WTA Gold Coast

Saturday At Royal Pines Resort Gold Coast, Australia Purse: \$170,000 (Tier III) Surface: Hard-Outdoor

Singles Championship Patty Schnyder (2), Switzerland, def. Sa-antha Stosur, Australia, 1-6, 6-3, 7-5.

Next Generation Hardcourts Saturday At Memorial Drive Adelaide, Australia Purse: \$419,000 (Intl. Series) Surface: Hard-Outdoor

Surface: Hard-Outdoor Singles Semifinals Joachim Johansson (2), Sweden, def. Olivi-er Rochus, Belgium, 6-1, 7-6 (5). Taylor Dent (5), United States, def. Juan Ig-nacio Chela (4), Argentina, 6-1, 6-1.

Hopman Cup

At Burswood Dome Perth, Australia Purse: \$780,000 (Exhibiton) Surface: Hard-Indoor Slovakia 3, Argentina 0

Slovakia 3, Argentina 0 Daniela Hantuchova, Slovakia, def. Gisela Dulko, Argentina, 1-6, 6-4, 6-4. Dominik Hrbaty, Slovakia, def. Guillermo Coria, Argentina, 6-4, 6-1. Hantuchova and Hrbaty def. Dulko and Coria, wallover.

Chennai Open

Saturday At SDAT Tennis S Chennai, India Purse: \$380,000 (Intl. Series) Surface: Hard-Outdoor

Surface: Hard-Outdo Singles Semifinals Paradorn Srichaphan (2), Th Tomas Zib, Czech Republic, 7-6 i Carlos Moya (1), Spain, def. Sc cla-Lopez, Spain, 6-4, 2-6, 7-6 (2) , Thailand, def. 7-6 (5), 6-3.

Singles Quarterfinals Carlos Moya (1), Spain, def. Paul-Henri Mathleu, France, 6-4, 6-4. Paradom Srichaphan (2), Thailand, def. Kristof Viliegen, Belgium, 6-3, 6-4.

Guillermo Garcia-Lopez, Spain, def. Michal Tabara, Czech Republic, 6-4, 6-4. Tomas Zib, Czech Republic, def. Justin Gimelstob, United States, 6-3, 7-6 (4).

Qatar Open

Saturday At The Khalifa Tennis Centre Doha, Qatar Purse: \$1 million (Intl. Series) Surface: Hard-Outdoor

Single
Roger Federer (1). Switzerland, def. Ivan
Ljubicic (6), Croatla, 6-3, 6-1,
Friday
Femifinals
Ivan Ljubicic (6), Croatla, def. Albert Costa,
Spain, 6-3, 7-6 (4),
Spain, 6-4, 7-6 (4),
Switzerland, def. Nikolay Davydenko (8), Russia, 6-3, 6-4.

College hockey

Friday's scores

Amherst 5, Trinity, Conn. 3 Boston U. 3, Northeastern 1 Bowdoin 4, Babson 1 Brockport 3, Johnson & Wales, R.I. 1 Buffalo St. 5, Lebanon Valley 2 Buffalo St. 5, Lebanon V. Clarkson 3, Princeton 2 Colby 6, Mass.-Boston 1 Colgate 3, Harvard 1 Connecticut 1, Army 0 Cornell 4, Brown 2 Dartmouth 9, RPI 1 Dartmouth 9, RPI 1 Hamilton 3, Wesleyan, Conn. 1 Holy Cross 3, American Internationa Mass.-Lowell 4, Massachusetts 3 Middlebury 2, Connecticut Coll. 1 New England Coll. 9, Castleton St. 1 New Hampshire 2, Providence 1 Norwich 8, S. Maine 3 St. Anselm 6, Skidmore 1 St. Lawrence 6, Yale 4 Salem St. 4, St. Michael's 4, tie Vermont 4, Union, N.Y. 0 Wentworth Tech 4, Geneseo St. 3 Williams 3, Tufts 1

Williams 3, Turts 1
SOUTH
Alabama-Huntsville 3, Wayne (Mich.) 2
MIDWEST MIDWEST

Alaska-Anchorage 1, Minn-Duluth 1, tie
Bemidji St. 4, Air Force 2
Bethel, Minn, 5, Finlandia 1
Bowling Green 6, Alaska-Fairbanks 2
Michigan 6, W. Michigan 4
Michigan 5t. 4, Miami (Ohio) 0
Nebraska-Omaha 3, N. Michigan 1
North Dakota 3, Minn-Mankato 2 Notre Dame 1, Lake Superior St. 1, tie Ohio St. 3, Ferris St. 1 St. Norbert 3, Lake Forest 0

St. Norbert 3, Lake Forest 0
Wisconsin 6, St. Cloud St. 0
Wis-Stevens Point 3, Wis.-Superior 3, tie
FAR WEST
Michigan Tech 3, Denver 0
EXHIBITION Maine 8, US Under-18 Te

Skiing

Men's World Cup downhill

CHAMONIX, France— Results from a men's World Cup downhill Saturday on the Piste Verte course: 1. Johann Grugger, Austria, 1 minute, 56.93

econds.

2. Kristlan Ghedina, Italy, 1:57,04.

3. Michael Walchhofer, Austria, 1:57.07.

4. Mario Scheiber, Austria, 1:57.24.

5. Daron Rahives, United States, 1:57.35.

6. Christoph Gruber, Austria, 1:57.42.

8. Bode Miller, United States, 1:57.44.

(tied) Hermann Maier, Austria, 1:57.44. 10. Kurt Sulzenbacher, Italy, 1:57.64. 11. Ambrosi Hoffmann, Switzerland, 11. 1:57.72. 1:57.72.

12. Juerg Gruenenfelder, Switzerland, 1:57.73.
(tied) Yannick Bertrand, France, 1:57.73.

(Ilied) Yannick Bertrand, France, 1:5
14. Manuel Osborne, Canada, 1:57.8
15. Bruno Kernen, Switzerland, 1:57.
16. Alessandro Fattori, Italy, 1:58.04
17. Finlay Mickel, Britain, 1:58.05
17. Finlay Mickel, Britain, 1:58.05
19. Werner Franz, Austria, 1:58.19.
20. Peter Fill, Italy, 1:58.31
21. Klaus Kroell, Austria, 1:58.44.
22. Pierre-Emmanuel Dalcin, 1:58.47.

23. Patrik Jaerbyn, Sweden, 1:58.67. 24. Patrick Staudacher, Italy, 1:58.7

Patrick Staudacher, Italy, 1:58.74.
 Marco Buechel, Liechtenstein, 1:58.
 Didder Defago, Switzerland, 1:58.99.
 Daniel Zueger, Switzerland, 1:59.02.
 Nicolas Burtin, France, 1:59.08.
 Max Rauffer, Germany, 1:59.15.
 Claude Cretier, France, 1:59.29.

Women's World Cup GS

SANTA CATERINA VALFURVA, Italy — Re-sults Saturday from a World Cup glant sla-lom on the Deborah Compagnoni course (run times in parentheses): 1. Tina Maze, Slovenia, 2 minutes, 36.78 seconds.

seconds
(1.17.89-1.18.89)
2. Genevieve Simard, Canada, 2:37.94
(1.19.07-1.18.82)
3. Allison Forsyth, Canada, 2:38.00
(1.19.57-1.18.82)
4. Julia Mancuso, United States, 2:38.23
(1.19.07-1.19.25)
5. Sonja Nef, Switzerland, 2:38.24 (1:18.92-1:19.32). Switzeriamu, 2:38.24 6. Tanja Poutlainen, Finland, 2:38.41 (1:18.44-1:19.97). (tie) Anja Paerson, Sweden, 2:38.41 (1:18.56-1:19.85). 8. Nicole Gius, Italy, 2:38.54 (1:19.25-1:19.29). Sonja N (1:18.92-1:19.32)

(tie) Michaela Dorfmeister, Austria, 2:38.54 (1:19.08-1:19.46). 10. Kathrin Zettel, Austria, 2:38.58 (1:19.25-1:19.33).

Deals

Friday's transactions

BASEBALL American League CHICAGO WHITE SOX—Designated C Jamie CHICAGO WHITE SOX—Designated c) James whire for assignment of the terms with 18 June 19 June 1

With LIP Guain Fetter of Professional Base-hall Leagues
NAPEL—Named John Gook executive direc-tor of business operations.
Canadian-American League
NORTH SHORE SPIRIT—Signed LHP Andy

Northern League

JOLIET JACKHAMMERS—Announced the contract of OF-1B Josh Loggins has been purchased by the Cleveland Indians.

KANSAS CITY T-BONES—Signed RHP Greg

RASKETRALI

BASKETBALL
National Basketball Association
PORTLAND TRAIL BLAZERS—Placed is self Abdur-Rahim and F Darius Miles on jured list. Activated C Ha Seung Jine injured list. the injured list.

SACRAMENTO KINGS—Placed G Bobby
Jackson in the injured list. Claimed G Eddle
House off waivers from Milmauke
Continental Basketball Association
YAKIMA SUN KINGS—Signed F Noel Felix
and F Donnell Knight.

and F Donnell Knight.

FOOTBALL

National Football League

DENVER BRONCOS – Signed RB Kris Briggs,
WR Todd Devoe, DE Randy Garner, OG Reese
Hicks, TE Mike Pinkard and LB Markus
Steele.

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS—Placed CB Ty Law on injured reserve.

WASHINGTON REDSKINS—Named Bill Musnrave guarterbacks coach. Arena Football League
ARIZONA RATTLERS—Waived DS Kendall

Edwards.

CHICAGO RUSH—Signed QB Charlie Peterson and OL-DL Jim Sodano. Announced the retirement of OL-DL Riley Kleinhesselink.

GEORGIA FORCE—Traded OL-DL Nikia Adderson to Arizona for future considerations.

LOS ANGELES AVENGERS—Signed OS Ben Bronson. NASHVILLE KATS—Signed DS Reggie

Stephens.

ORLANDO PREDATORS—Signed OS Travis

MCGriff, DB Jason Bostic, WR Kerry Watkins,

OL-DL Devonte Peterson, OL-DL Leon Scott,

DS Jamie Hadley, OL-DL Deon White and QB

Romaro Miller, Traded OS Fablain Davis to

New York Of Stephen Davis To New York

PHILADELPHIA SOUL—Re-Signed QB Tony

Canadian Football League
OTTAWA RENEGADES—Signed Joe Paopao,
coach, to a one-year contract extension and
announced he will also be the general manager.

HOCKEY American Hockey League SPRINGFIELD FALCONS—Recalled LW Den-nis Packard from Johnstown of the ECHL.

SPRINGFIELD FALCONS—Recalled LW Den-nis Packard from Johnstown of the ECHL. Central Hockey League AUSTIN ICE BATS—Signed D Jeff Alcom-prack and C Tom Kotsopoulos. COLORADO EAGLES—Walved G Gian Baldri-

corpus christi rayz—Signed RW Roger OKLAHOMA CITY BLAZERS—Signed G OKLAHOMA CITY BLAZENS—signed G Kasey Moreland—signed D Cameron Breit-kreuz and RW Chris Pelletler. LACROSSE National Lacrosse League MINNESOTA SWARM—Traded F Derek Malawsky and a 2005 second-round entry draft pick to San Jose for F Kelly Hall and a 2007 first-round entry draft Dick to San Jose for F Kelly Hall and a

2007 first-nound entry draft pick.

800HESTE INMEHIAAWS—Tradel D
Christopher Communication of the cond-round entry draft pick or a 2006 second-round entry draft pick for a 2006 secOLYMPICS
U.S. OLYMPIC COMMITTEE—Announced
the resignation of Early Reese, chief financial officer.

SOCCER

Major League Soccer
D.C. UNITED—Re-signed D Brandon Pride

COLLEGE

COLLEGE
BRIGHAM YOUNG—Named Brandon
Doman quarterbacks coach.
COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON—Named Lauren
Sampson director of sports marketing.
DUKE—Named Bill O'Brien offensive coordi-

DIME - Named Bill O'Brien of fersive coordinate of the Management of the Core will forego his senior season and make himself under the Core will senior season and make himself will be the Core will be compared to the Co

Okafor off to good start for startup team

Bobcats rookie proving he can carry offensive load for expansion franchise

BY JENNA FRYER

CHARLOTTE, N.C.
hen Emeka Okafor
broke Shaquille
O'Neal's rooke:
record for consecutive double-doubles, O'Neal softly
and sarcastically — clapped
his hands.

"He gets the golf clap," O'Neal said. "There's only one me. There won't ever be another like me." Maybe so, but there's no deny-

ing that Okafor has turned plenty of heads in his rookie season just like O'Neal did on the way to becoming one of the 50 greatest players in NBA history.

Okafor, the No. 2 pick in the NBA Draft, has settled right into his role as the cornerstone of the expansion Bobcats and quickly caught the eye of his opponents.

caught the eye of his opponents. He's been chosen as the NBA's rookie of the month the two times the award has been given this season, and his streak of 19 straight games in double figures in points and rebounds broke O'Neal's mark of 16.

The streak was broken this week in a loss to Cleveland, but Okafor picked right back up two nights later with 18 points and 10 rebounds in a victory over Minnesota in which Okafor spent most of the night guarding Kevin Garnett.

"If he continues to work and become more polished, he can be really special," Garnett said. "He's playing like an animal right now."

The Bobcats never wavered in their desire to draft Okafor. Coach and general manager Bernie Bickerstaff spent five days scouting last year on Connecticut's campus.

Okafor was everything the Bobcats wanted to build their franchise around. A proven winner, he led UConn to the national title last season and was the Most Outstanding Player of the NCAA tournament. He's tough, strong, takes pride

in defense and is extremely intelligent. An Academic All-American, Okafor graduated in three years with a degree in finance and a 3.8 grade point average. Still, there were questions.

He sat out three games at

ric sat out three game

UConn last season with a back injury that had some NBA scouts concerned. And he was dogged by the perception he couldn't star on offense

"The word coming out of college was he would be great defensively and on the boards but would struggle offensively," Miami coach Stan Van Gundy said. "He hasn't at all. He's got good, quick moves around the basket and he has shot the ball extremely well."

"He has proven to be an offensive force and he seems to be getting better and better."

Heading into the weekend, Okafor was averaging 15.8 points per game. His 11.4 rebounds per

44 The word coming out of college was he would be great defensively and on the boards but would struggle offensively. He hasn't at all.?

Stan Van Gundy Miami Heat coach

game ranked third in the NBA. If his productivity has caught some by surprise, Okafor isn't among them.

"I have no idea why people think that about me. I led

think that about me. I led [UCom] in scoring in a system that was not designed for me to score all the time," Okafor said. "I know I can score, and I don't really understand why people are surprised to see my scoring in the NBA."

Still, the questions were strong enough that the Orlando Magic passed on Okafor with the No. 1 pick in the draft. When the Magic called high schooler Dwight Howard's name on draft night, acrowd of about 14,000 at the Charlotte Coliseum erupted in cheers and Bobeats management

let out a sigh of relief.

They had traded up from No. 4

to No. 2 to position themselves for a shot at Okafor, then had to hope the Magic wouldn't take him first.

The Bobcats would have been pleased with Howard, they insisted, but Okafor was a far better fit for a startup. They needed someone who could handle being the face of the franchise, and understand that every personnel move
Charlotte makes is based around
him and the long-term results it
can produce.

"His maturity is important because he has the ability to see the big picture." Bickerstaff said. "We are trying to lay a foundation, and he sees the big picture. We're going to pur this together, we're going to find the big pieces, and he makes it easier with his approach to the game."

proach to the game."

Making the U.S. Olympic team
was an extra bonus in Okafor's development. He didn't play much,
but spent as much time learning
about the NBA from his teamnates as he did soaking up the history and culture in every country
the team traveled to.

Bickerstaff said Okafor's willingness to observe and learn, and his attention to detail, will make him an NBA standout.

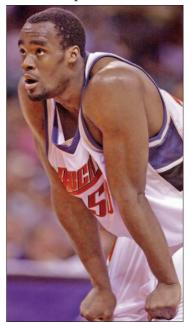
"He's a guy with a routine. If his routine is disoriented in any way, it impacts his game," Bickerstaff said. "All the great players Tve been around, they had a routine. He gets it. A lot of pro players don't understand responsibility. You don't just show up because you are good."

Seattle guard Ray Allen, a UConn alum, is familiar with Okafor from watching the Huskies on TV. Even though he doesn't know him well personally, he said he never doubted Okafor would come charging out of the gate in the NBA.

"I tell everyone that playing for julim Calhoun at UConn is the hardest thing you'll ever do. The NBA is easy compared to that," Allen said. "If he could play for Calhoun, and he could win a national championship for Calhoun, he was ready for this level and would have no problem breaking out of the pigeon hole as a defensive specialist."

The question now is whether

Okafor can sustain his level of play and win Rookie of the Year



Charlotte Bobcats' Emeka Okafor, above, recently broke Shaquille O'Neal's rookie record with double-doubles in 19 consecutive games.

honors. With an even temperament — Okafor said he only gets excited "about the big stuff, like winning a national championship and getting drafted" — he refuses to look that far ahead.

"It's way too early, we've got way too many games left for me Okafor said. "I could go out there and tank it from here on out asomeone else could play great. So right now I am just worrying about doing my job and doing it as well as I can, and nothing else."

to be even thinking about that?

Webber wonders whether New Yorkers would welcome him

BY CHRIS SHERIDAN The Associated Press

"Whisper in Isiah's ear for me, Chris Webber said.

OK, Chris. Here it goes: Psst, Isiah Thomas, listen up. Webber has a few reservations,

but he's definitely intrigued by the idea of playing for the New York Knicks.

Webber rolled through New York last week as the Sacramento Kings made the first stop on a four-game road trip, scoring 22 points in a seven-point victory that gave the Kings their 20th win NBA notes Only six NBA teams entered the weekend with as

many as 20
wins, and none of them would figure to be eager to part with a player as integral to their success as
Webber is to the Kings. But Sacramento is a special case, still harboring the same unresolved chemistry issues that led Peja Stojakovic to ask for a trade over the sum-

And the team's financial commitment to Webber — about \$60 million over the next three years
— is somewhat of a risk as he continues his comeback from microfracture surgery on his right knee.

Webber freely acknowledges he's lost some of the explosiveness his knee used to provide, and he remains cautious when considering whether his knee will hold up over the long haul.

He also harbors some apprehension over whether he'd be welcomed in New York, a prospect he gave serious consideration to 3½ years ago before re-signing with Sacramento.

"There's no player that's ever

touched a basketball that I've ever loved and admired more than Isiah," Webber said of the Knicks president, who was winning NBA titles with the Pistons when Webber was growing up as

Thomas is not scared off by the amount of money remaining on Webber's contract, nor his 15 percent trade kicker, but he is known to be apprehensive about the long-term health of Webber's knee

a teenager in Detroit.

Asked at the Kings-Knicks game what type of piece he'd like to add to the Knicks, Thomas anBut Thomas privately remains

fixated on Webber, seeing him as one of the final major pieces to complete a transformation of a roster to which he's already added Stephon Marbury, Jamal Crawford, Tim Thomas, Nazr Mohammed and rookie Trevor Airża, who has supplanted Penny Hardaway — another Thomas acquisition — as the backup shooting guard behind Allan Houston during Crawford's current injury

Kobe boosts L.A., tsunami aid effort

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Kobe Bryant was so money, and not just for the Los Angeles Lakers.

Bryant had 27 points and 10 assists in a 111-104 victory over the Houston Rockets on Friday night when every point he scored meant money for children who survived the tsunami in Southeast Asia

Asked if he had a point total in mind before the game, Bryant said, "A hundred. There's a greater cost at stake."

Along with Bryant, Houston teammates Tracy McGrady and Bobby Sura donated \$1,000 per point to UNICEF, as did other NBA players Friday night. McGrady led the Rockets with 26 points.

"It's just a little donation to try to help out so they could get their lives back together," said Sura, who added 20 points. "It felt good."

In all, the three players contributed \$73,000. Bryant and McGrady shared a hug at the buzzer.

"It's for a great benefit," McGrady said. "I tried not to think about it during the game, but every time I made a shot, I was like, "There's two thousand dollars, there's three thousand dollars."

The Lakers needed some charity of their own after losing two straight games at San Antonio and Dallas.

"It was a big game," Bryant said. "Their team is trying to fight to get into the playoffs as we are and they're right on our heels. We're fighting every game. It's an uphill battle for us, but we seem to rise to the challenge."

Four other Lakers scored in double figures, including Lamar Odom with 20 points and 12 rebounds and Caron Butler with 21 points.

Houston's Yao Ming scored 25 points before fouling out with 2:18 remaining.

Lakers coach Rudy Tomjanovich improved to 2-0 this season against his former team. The Lakers beat the Rockets 84-79 on Nov. 13 in Houston, when an emotional Tomjanovich was honored for his 34 years.

This time, Tomjanovich said, it was "a very big win. I called it a playoff game."

The Rockets cut their 24-point deficit to nine points at the start of the fourth quarter. But the Lakers responded with a 6-0 spurt and then Brian Cook hit consecutive three-pointers on assists by Bryant for a 95-77 lead with 9:30 remaining.

Helped by McGrady and Yao, the Rockets got within eight points with 5½ minutes left on McGrady's fast-break layup. Yao had four straight points before McGrady scored four in a row.

"That's a very heavy pack on your back," Yao said about the 24-point hole. "People can say, 'Let's start over in the second half



like it's zero-zero.' But you can't stop thinking about that pack on your back. We played with much better energy in the second half, but we paid for what we did in the first half."

Bryant's one-handed reverse dunk ignited the crowd and kept the Lakers ahead 98-88. He bumped into Yao and still got off a turnaround jumper for a 104-94 lead with 2-51 left.

McGrady's basket and two free throws by Maurice Taylor put the Rockets six points back with 1½ minutes remaining. Odom took a pass from Bryant and hit a three-pointer as Los Angeles led 109-100. The Rockets got no closer.

Even though Houston played better in the fourth, coach Jeff Van Gundy said, "I don't think you could watch this game and feel good about anything."

Kings 100, Hawks 97: At Atlanta, Mike Bibby scored 31 points, including a clinching jumper with 11.7 seconds remaining, and Sacramento handed Atlanta its sixth straight loss.

The Hawks (5-26) have lost 11 of 12. Only New Orleans has a worse record.

Chris Webber bounced back from a 6-for-21 shooting performance in a loss to Toronto. He made his first six shots and finished 13-for-22 from the field for 28 points.

Pistons 110, Celtics 104: At Boston, Richard Hamilton scored 25 points, recovering from a dubious record-setting night by making two key baskets down the stretch. Chauncey Billups scored 22 for

the defending NBA champions, who lost to Memphis 101-79 on Whousday night as Hamilton went 0-for-10 from the field and 14-for-14 from the line to become the first player in NBA history to lead his team in scoring without making a single basket.

Nets 82, Warriors 72: Vince Carter scored 22 points, Richard Jefferson added 20 and host New Jersey bounced back from two bad road losses to beat Golden State

Jason Kidd added 13 points, 13 rebounds and nine assists as the Nets sent the Warriors to their fourth straight loss.

Magic 111, Bobcats 91: Hedo Turkoglu scored 22 points, fellow reserve Pat Garrity added 16 in a victory over visiting Charlotte.

Grant Hill scored 16 points and Tony Battie added 13 on 6-for-6 shooting for the Magic, who on Nov. 6 became the first team to lose to the Bobcats. Steve Francis had 10 points and tied his season high with 13 assists.

Bucks 107, Raptors 105 (OT): At Toronto, Desmond



Los Angeles Lakers' Kobe Bryant dunks over Houston Rockets' Tracy McGrady during the first half Friday night in Los Angeles. Bryant and McGrady each pledged \$1,000 for every point they scored to tsunami relief.

Mason had 23 points and Michael Redd scored 10 of his 15 points in the fourth quarter.

Jalen Rose sent the game overtime with a driving layup at the buzzer, but Mason had five points in the extra period and Toronto's Morris Peterson missed a potential tying jumper with one second left.

Timberwolves 89, 76ers 84: Sam Cassell scored host Minnesota's first 14 points in the fourth quarter and finished with 26 as the Timberwolves ended a four-game losing streak with a victory over Philadelphia, which played without guard Allen Iverson. Iverson, the NBA's leading scor-

er, sat out the game with a sprained right ankle sustained Wednesday at Utah. He was also bothered by the flu and a bruised left shoulder, but Sixers coach Jim O'Brien said it was the swollen ankle that kept Iverson out.

Bulls 84, Jazz 78: At Chicago, Rookie Luol Deng had 22 points and seven rebounds, and Eddy Curry added 21 points as the Bulls handed Utah its eighth consecutive loss.

Matt Harpring and Gordan Giricek both had 13 points for Utah, which hasn't won since beating the Philadelphia 76ers 103-101 on Dec. 20.

Kirk Hinrich scored 12 points and Ben Gordon and Andres Nocioni each had 11 for Chicago which has won eight of its last 11 games.

Heat 103, Trail Blazers 92: Miami began its longest road trip of the season by getting double-doubles from Shaquille O'Neal and Dwyane Wade to defeat the injury-depleted Trail Blazers.

O'Neal had 28 points and 10 rebounds and Wade had 25 points and 12 assists for the Heat, who led by as many as 22 in winning for the 16th time in 17 games. Their only loss came Monday against the SuperSonics, and they can avenge it Sunday night at Seattle on the second stop of a five-eame trice.

Miami has won eight straight road games.

Carter's admission dismays Raptors

The Associated Press

TORONTO — Vince Carter's former teammates were dismayed Friday after hearing him admit he didn't always try his hardest when he played for the Toronto Raptors.

In an interview broadcast Thursday on TNT, network analyst John Thompson asked Carter if he pushed

NBA him hard show

if he pushed himself as hard as he should have in Toronto. "In years past, no." said

Carter, acquired by the New Jersey Nets on Dec 17. "I was fortunate to have the talent ... you get spoiled when you're able to do a lot of things. You see that you don't have to work at it.

"Now, with the all the injuries, I have to work harder. I'm a little hungrier. Getting a fresh start has made me want to attack the basket."

Many have questioned Carter's dedication, his commitment to off-season conditioning and his desire to improve, but some where were surprised to hear Carter acknowledge it.

"It's a reflection on him and his character," Raptors guard Rafer Alston said. "Is he a guy that you can go to war with night in and night out? That's what a lot of people are going to be questioning."

Alston also suggested that Carter cost the Raptors games with his lack of effort. "It hurts." Alston said. "I don't

know if a player who is considered an All-Star and has so many fan votes going into All-Star week wants to have that on his rap sheet?

Carter has played well since being traded for Alonzo Mouring, Aaron Williams, Eric Williams and two first-round farpicks. He is averaging 22.5 points in 40.3 minutes with New Jersey, compared to 15.9 points in 30.4 minutes with the Raptors.

Toronto guard Morris Peterson was shocked when he watched the interview on television.

"It caught me off guard, being a professional player that's something I always pride myself on." Peterson said. "I can sleep better at night knowing I give it everything I can."

"You could tell he wasn't playing his best," Peterson said. Toronto coach Sam Mitchell

didn't want to talk about Carter.

"That's between Vince and his conscience," Mitchell said.

Union, league pledge \$500,000 each to relief effort

NEW YORK — The NBA players' union has decided to donate \$500,000 to help victims of last month's Indian Ocean tsunami, and the NBA will match the gift, a league spokesman said Friday.

The donations are to be made to UNICEF, NBA spokesman Brian Flinn said.

Several NBA players, including the Indiana Pacers' Jermaine O'Neal decided to donate \$1,000 for every point they scored or assist they recorded in games played earlier this week, and many teams are donating money and collecting funds from fans.

Police try to ID more fans

AUBURN HILLS, Mich. — Police are trying to identify more fans who were caught on camera throwing food or drinks or walking onto the court during the brawl at November's Detroit Pistons-Indiana Pacers game.

Auburn Hills police released photographs of at least seven different people they are trying to identify. Lt. James Manning said Friday that the department plans to charge them with violating a local ordinance that prohibits spectators at sporting events from walking on the playing surface or throwing things.

Oakland County Prosecutor David Gorcyca previously charged 10 people, including five Pacers, in the brawl with misdemeanor assault and battery. One fan, Bryant Jackson, also is charged with felonious assault. Two other fans have been charged under the city's ordinance.

Gorcyca has said that throwing a drink on someone constitutes assault and battery. However, he does not plan to charge the additional people for whom the Auburn Hills police are looking.

Abdur-Rahim, Miles join injured list

PORTLAND, Ore. — The Portland Trail Blazers placed forwards Shareef Abdur-Rahim and Darius Miles on the injured list Friday and activated rookie center Ha Seung-Jin.

Abdur-Rahim, who has missed seven games because of loose particles in his right elbow, will have surgery Wednesday that could sideline him for five weeks.

Miles injured his left knee in the Blazers' loss on Wednesday to the Los Angeles Clippers. He is expected to be sidelined for up to two weeks.

Both Abdur-Rahim and Miles have started at small forward for the Blazers. Ruben Patterson got the nod Friday night, scoring 27 points on 12-for-14 shooting in Portland's 103-92 loss to the Miami Heat

"People forget I was a scorer in college," Patterson said. "I can score in this league. I'm just trying to step up."

Abdur-Rahim had seen two doctors about the elbow problem and had planned to get a third opinion, but decided Friday to go ahead with surgery.

"It's been bothering me for a month," he said. "It wasn't going to do any good to continue on with it. My thing is get it dealt with."

Ha, a 7-foot-3, 305-pound center, made his debut against the Heat, becoming the first South Korean to play in the NBA. A second-round pick in last year's draft, he played the final minute of the game and didn't record a stat.

The Blazers signed him on Dec. 26 and placed him on the injured list with lower back pain a day later.

Abdur-Rahim is averaging 15.7 points and eight rebounds in 23 games. An eight-year veteran, he had not missed consecutive games in his career. Miles, his backup, averages 12.6 points and 5.1 rebounds.

Grizzlies hold off Hornets, stretch win streak to six

The Associated Press

MEMPHIS, Tenn. - A night after soundly defeating the de fending NBA champs on the road, the Memphis Grizzlies extended winning streak to a season-high six games with a victory over the league's worst team.

Pau Gasol scored 20 points and Shane Battier added 19 to help the Grizzlies defeat the New Orleans Hornets 84-76 Friday night. Memphis outscored New Or-

leans 8-1 in the final 2:23 to improve to 18-17, the first time the Grizzlies have been above .500 this season. Friday's win followed Thursday's 101-79 victory over the Detroit Pistons.

The Hornets dropped to an NBA-worst 2-29 with their 10th straight loss.

"We knew it was going to be an ugly game," said Memphis center Lorenzen Wright, who grabbed 10 rebounds. "They're hungry, and they want to get a win bad ...We felt this was a game we

were going to win. The demeanor of the team never changed. We just knew we had to play defense and stop them."

Gasol added 11 rebounds, and Rattier matched his season-high with 10 rebounds. He also had a career-high five blocks.

The two teams went scoreless for more than four minutes in the fourth quarter. The Grizzlies shot

22 percent, only slightly better than the Hornets' 20 percent. New Orleans also had six turn-

overs in the fourth. The Hornets, despite not making a field goal in the final seven minutes, closed within a point twice in the fourth quarter, the final time at 76-75 on Rodney Rog-ers' two free throws with 2:23 left.

From there, Memphis put together six straight points as part of its closing stretch. "I don't know what it is, but we're not playing smart," Rogers

Mike Miller finished with 16 points for Memphis.

Baron Davis led the Hornets with 19 points and eight assists, but was 6-of-20 from the field. The Hornets shot a season-low 31.7 percent — quite an accom-plishment for a team that began the night with the league's worst field goal percentage, 39.7 percent

"It's not like we're not getting the looks," Davis said.

"We're getting the looks. We're just not making our shots. Once again, I thought we settled for threes

Lee Nailon added 14 points, and Rogers and P.J. Brown fin-ished with 10 points. Brown also had 12 rebounds.

Memphis coach Mike Fratello acknowledged the wounded Hornets presented "the worst game you can have" after Thursday's win at Detroit.

"We were fortunate," Fratello for their effort. They've had a difficult season, but they didn't give up and played hard."



New Orleans Hornets' I.R. Smith drives on Memphis Grizzlies' Shane Battier (31) during the first half Friday in Memphis. Tenn.

NBA scoreboard

Fastern Conference Atlantic Division

8 16½ 20

W L Pct GB 16 16 .500 — 15 17 .469 1 15 18 .455 1½ 12 20 .375 4 12 22 .353 5

27 8 .771 18 13 .581 17 14 .548 8 22 .267 5 26 .161

7 .794 10 .677 17 .514 17 .485 29 .065 91/2 101/2 231/2

5 26 .161 Central Division 19 12 .613 18 14 .563 16 14 .533 12 18 .400 11 19 .367

Western Conference

Southwest Division W L

Joiden State Friday's games Milwaukee 107, Toronto 105, OT Orlando 111, Charlotte 91 Detroit 110, Boston 104 Sacramento 100, Atlanta 72 New Jersey 82, Golden State 72 Memphis 94, New Orleans 76 Minnesota 85, Philadelphia 84 Miamil 103, Portland 92 LA. Lakers 111, Houston 104 Saturday's games

L.A. Lakers 111, Houston 104.
Saturday's games
New York at Cleveland
Denver at San Antonio
New Jersey at Orian Antonio
New Jersey at Orian Sacramento at New Orleans
Utah at Milwaukee
Boston at Chicago
Indiana at Dallas
Phoenix at L.A. Clippers
Golden State Mady's top
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Cleveland Detroit Indiana Chicago Milwaukee

San Antonio Dallas Memphis Houston New Orleans

Seattle Minnesota

Phoenix Sacramento L.A. Lakers L.A. Clippers Golden State Orlando at Boston Portland at Philadelphia L.A. Lakers at Minnesota Golden State at Chicago San Antonio at Utah

Friday Bucks 107, Raptors 105 (OT)

MILWAUKEE – D.Mason 6-16 11-14 23 mith 9-14 1-3 19, Gadzuric 2-3 1-2 5, Redd 6-20 5-7 15, M. Williams 8-12 5-9 22, Strickland 4-0 -0 2, James 2-5 0-0 4, Kukoc 3-8 0-0 7, izer 0-12-2 2, Pachulia 3-4 2-2 8. Totals 39-87

Milwaukee 22 15 72 21 1—107
Toronto Polnt Coals—Milwaukee 25 (15 9—106
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Three-Point Coals—Milwaukee 25 (MWIII—
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Magic 111, Bobcats 91

Magic 111, Bobcats 91

CHARLOTTE - Wallines 37-06. Glosfor 7-141-315, Breece 8-11-22 18, Bush 6-133-47

7-141-315, Breece 8-11-22 18, Bush 6-133-47

7-141-315, Breece 8-11-22 18, Bush 6-13-47

31, Hut 7-18-15, T-5-181, Howard 6-12-31

10, Battle 6-13-11, Mobiley 1-61-24, France 10, Bush 6-13-11, Mobiley 1-61-24, France 10, Bush 6-13-11, Mobiley 1-61-24, France 11, Bush 6-13-11, Mobiley 1-61-24, France 6-13-11, Mobiley 1-61-24, France 11, Bush 6-13-11, Mobiley 1-61-24, France 11, Mobiley

Pistons 110, Celtics 104

DETROIT — Prince 5-13 2-4 14, R.Wallace 6-14 4-4 16, B.Wallace 2-6 3-77, Billups 6-8 6-8 22, Hamilton 10-18 3-4 25, Hunter 2-6 4-4 8, McDyess 6-9 2-2 14, Dupree 1-3 2-2 4. Totals 38-77 26-35 110.

BOSTON — Welsch 5-6 2-3 12, LaFrentz 4-6 0-1 8, Blount 3-6 1-2 7, Payton 8-13 0-0 17, Pierce 7-13 7-9 22, Jefferson 3-7 3-3 9, Banks 2-4 3-4 8, Davis 7-9 5-6 19, Allen 0-0-00, Per-kins 0-1 2-22, McCarty 0-1 0-00. Totals 39-66 23-30 104. Detroit 30 33 19 28—110

Besten 29 24 90 31.—104 Trice-Point Goals—Detroit B.13 (Billuss 4-4, Prince 2-2, Hamilton 2-4, R.Wallace 0-1, Huntrer 0-2), Boston 3-8 (Pierce 1-2, Banks 1-2, Payton 1-2, McCarty 0-1, Davis 0-1). Fouled out-1-afferiatz, Rebounds—Detroit 48 (B.Wallace 10), Boston 34 (Lafrentz 6), As-sists—Detroit 24 (Prince 7), Boston 22, (Pierce, Payton 5), Total fouls—Detroit 23, Boston 27, A-18,624 (18,624)

Kings 100, Hawks 97

SACRAMENTO — Stojakovic 7-18 1-1 17, Webber 13-22 2-228, B.Miller 1-5 0-0 2, Bibby 9-18 9-10 31, Christie 3-7 5-6 11, Ostertag 0-1 0-0 0, Evans 2-4 0-0 5, Songalia 2-5 0-0 4, Mar-tin 1-1 0-0 2. Totals 38-81 17-19 100.

Nets 82. Warriors 72

Nets 82, Warriors 72

SOLDEN STATE — Dunleyer, 61 50-9 12. Murphly, 29-22, 7, 10. Exchange 510-75, 12. Burleyer, 61 50-9 12. Murphly, 29-22, 71, 12. Burleyer, 61 50-9 12. Burle

Grizzlies 84, Hornets 76 NEW ORLEANS - Rogers 3-11 4-7 10, Nailor

6-19 2-2 1.8, Brown 3-12 4-4 10, Davis 6-20 5-6 12, Smith 3-24-20, Machine 1-24-5 20, Davis 1-24-5 20, Davis

Timberwolves 89, 76ers 84

PHILADELPHIA — Iguodala 0-1 2-2 2, K.Tho-mas 3-9 0-0 6, Dalembert 1-3 1-2 3, Salmons 4-11 0-0 10, Green 5-14 2-2 13, Jackson 3-10 11-12 17, Korver 3-11 0-9, Oillei 1-2 1-13, Will-iamson 7-17 7-9 21, McKle 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 7-7-78 24-78, 84

Bulls 84, Jazz 78

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Chicago 12 27 29 16-84
Three-Point Goals—Utah 4-7 (Giricek 2-3,
Okur 1-2, Eisley 1-2), Chicago 4-15 (Hinrich 2-4, Nocioni 1-2, Deng 1-3, Williams 0-1, Gordon 0-5). Fouled out—Curry. Rebounds—U-

tah 61 (Okur 11), Chicago 45 (Chandler 9). As sists—Utah 21 (McLeod 8), Chicago 23 (Hin rich 9). Total fouls—Utah 25, Chicago 29 Technicals—Eisley, Curry. A—16,887 (21,711)

Heat 103, Trail Blazers 92

Heat 103, Trail Blazers 92
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5-18, Olyan 11-15-6-32, Wade 515-910, 12
5-18, Olyan 11-15-6-32, Wade 515-910, 12
5-6-0-6, Lasteria 12-0-0, Blatter 61-6-0.
FORTIAMO — Patterson 11-24-3-27, Rand-olyon 15-10-5-28, Randl 15-6-5-0, Testing 7-3-0
FORTIAMO — Patterson 11-24-3-27, Rand-olyon 15-0-10-28, Randl 15-26, September 10-20, Randl 17-16-16-20, Randl 17-16-28, September 10-20, Randl 17-16-28, September 10-20, Randl 17-16-28, September 10-20, Randl 17-16-28, September 12-2, Stoudarine 9-1, Danderson 10-20, Touled on 2-4, Bandlohn, Robonton 5-46, September 12-2, Stoudarine 9-1, Danderson 10-20, Touled on 2-4, Bandlohn, Robonton 5-46, September 12-2, Stoudarine 9-1, Danderson 10-20, Touled on 2-4, Bandlohn, Robonton 5-46, September 12-2, Stoudarine 9-1, Danderson 10-20, Touled on 2-4, Bandlohn, Robonton 5-46, September 12-2, Bandlohn, Robonton 5-46, Septemb

Lakers 111, Rockets 104

Lancers 11, 100 rects 10° WOUSTON - McGrady 11.24 0-0.26, Howard Wesley 1-7.22 5, Barry 1,7 1.2.3, Mutombe 12,0-0.25, Howard 12,0-0.25, Barry 1,7 1.2.3, Mutombe 12,0-0.25, Barry 1,0-0.25, Barry 1,7 1.2.3, Mutombe 12,0-0.25, Barry 1,0-0.25, Barry 4,5-3.4 11, Lt. LAKERS - Butler 6-12.8-8.21, Odom 2,7-4.20, Barry 1,7-4.20, Barry 1,0-15.6-10, 10.25, Barry 1,0-15.6-10, Barry 1

LAL Lakers 26 35 22 28—11 Three-Point Goals—Houston 6-22 (McGrady 4-10, Wesley 1-3, Sura 1-6, 50 -6), LA Lakers 9-20 (Atkins 3-6, Cook 2-3, Odon 2-4, Bryant 1-2, Butler 1-3, Brown 6-2, Gook 2-3, Cook 2-3, C

NBA calendar

Jan. 10 - All player contracts guaranteed Jan. 10 – All player contracts guaranteed or rest of the season. Feb. 18-20 – All-Star weekend, Denver. Feb. 24 – Trading deadline, 3 p.m. EST. April 20 – Regular season ends. April 23 – Playoffs begin. June 7-10 – NBA predraft camp, Chicago. June 9 – Earliest possible NBA Finals start

ate. June 21 — Early entry draft withdrawal Padline.

June 23 — Latest possible NBA Finals end date. June 28 — NBA Draft, New York.

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Singh still on top in Mercedes

BY DOUG FERGUSON The Associated Press

KAPALUA, Hawaii — Standing on the 12th tee, Mike Weir gazed down at the Pacific and watched dozens of surfers riding one big wave after another. As he walked up the 14th green and saw the leader board in the Mercedese Championship, he saw someone riding a wave that was big even by Maui's standards.

There was Vijay Singh — on top of his game, in the lead and showing no signs of letting up.

"It's just a given he's going to be there," Weir said.

The only surprise Friday in the second round was that Singh was kind enough to give the rest of the winners-only field a fighting

Chance. The 41-year-old Fijian was 6-under par through seven holes and on the verge of turning the season-opening tournament into a blowout. Then putts stopped falling until the final hole, when Singh made a 10-foot birdie putt for an 8-under 65 that gave him a two-shot lead over Weir.

"I just started off really well and kept it going," said Singh, who was at 15-under 131 after two rounds on the Plantation Course at Kapalua.

He'll have to continue if he wants to win.

Weir looked sharp, overcoming no No. 10 to shoot a 10-under 63. Ernie Els, who was another shot behind after a 65, also made it look easy. In fact, the Big Easy has never had a round over par in 18 rounds at Kapalua.

"I just feel comfortable here,"

Tiger Woods feels anything but that. Woods is swinging better than he has in two years, and putting like he just picked up the game last week. Woods might be challenging Singh for the lead except for his difficulty on the greens, missing six birdie putts inside 8 feet on Friday in his round of 68 that left him five shots behind.

"If I average my normal putts per round like the rest of the year, I've got a shot at it," said Woods, who has taken 32 putts each of the first two days. "But hey, we've all got to do it."

And it can be done.

Weir made putts from a variety of distances in matching his score from the first round of 2002, just one shot off the course record at Kapalua. Defending champion Stuart Appleby shot a 9-under 64 that got him back into contention, six shots behind. Singh, the only player without a bogey this week, has certainly made his share.

Sergio Garcia and Jonathan Kaye each had 67 and were at 11-under 135, while Chad Campbell (67) and Stewart Cink (68) joined Woods at 136. Retief Goosen and David Toms were at 138.

en and David Toms were at 138. Els isn't the only one who likes



Ernie Els chips onto the ninth green during the second round of the Mercedes Championships on Friday at the Kapalua Plantation Course in Maui, Hawaii. Els finished the day at 12-under, three shots behind leader Viiay Singh.

Singh had his 16th consecutive round at par or better on the cliffside course, and he has never finished worse than eighth the last five times he has played.

"I think Vijay likes this course, obviously." Els said. "He has a very good record around her He's got so much confidence now. A guy like Vijay, myself, Tiger, Retief, the longer hitters ... you can have some fun out there. You can really bomb it out there, unlike other golf courses we play on tour.

"Vijay is the perfect candidate to shoot a low one around here." Singh is a good candidate anywhere these days. He is coming

where these days. He is coming off an amazing season in which he won nine times, including a major, and earned nearly \$11 million.

It is a scary thought to consider that a new year brought more of the same.

Even so, Els isn't willing to concede the tournament, the West Coast Swing, and certainly not the entire season.

"He's playing great goff. Let's not get that wrong," Els said. "But it's a long year. We can all play this game. I get my act to gether, it's game on. And the same with Tiger and some other people. If he beats me this week, Well played. But there's another week, and there's a long year to

There's a long way to go this weekend.

The only thing that went wrong for Singh was putting the wrong driver in his bag. He discovered the mistake about 20 minutes before he teed off, and sent his caddie-trainer to fetch it.

Then, Singh stormed into the

He holed a 15-foot putt on No. 1, hit his tee shot to 5 feet on No. 2, then hit a crisp iron over a gorge to 15 feet on the par-5 fifth hole for an eagle. That was followed by another short birdie, then a 60-foot put from just of the green. His great run finally ended when he missed a 3-foot birdie putt on the eighth.

His lead was five shots at that point, although Singh cooled and several other players slowly made their move up the leaderboard to keep things interesting on the weekend.

"With the start he had, he could easily have put 4 or 5 under on that back nine and off he goes," Woods said. "At least I made a run and kept my spirits up a little

Changes to BCS could include computer, coaches, committee

BY STEPHEN HAWKINS The Associated Press

GRAPEVINE, Texas — Computers, coaches and a committee — or some combination of all three — are the most likely options for the next revision of the Bowl Championship Series.

Commissioners from the 11 Dior more than five hours Friday in their first get-together since The Associated Press asked last month that its poll not be used in the formula that determines the teams for the four BCS games.

"What it's done is stimulate a e-evaluation of the whole criteria," ACC Commissioner John Swofford said. "It's interesting that in the past, most of the focus had been on the computers and where they fit in. This is the first year that we've really had the focus redirected to the human poll."

The meeting on the opening day of the NCAA convention was the Irst step toward changes in the BCS. Commissioners will meet again in April, but BCS coordinator and Big 12 Commissioner Kevin Weiberg said there might

not be any final decisions then. The primary issue is determining how to rank teams without the AP poll. The BCS formula, also using six computer rankings, was streamlined this season to put heavy emphasis on the two human polls, the AP and the ESPN/USA Today coaches poll.

Weiberg said the BCS could look to supplant the AP poll, "if there is a suitable replacement." The system, which started in 1989 and has overcome several changes, could also rank teams using the coaches poll and the computers.

There is still the concern of the coaches keeping their votes pri-

"The transparency issue is one of our most important," Weiberg said. "That would put us in a position to have some level of discomfort moving forward."

The American Football Coaches Association is expected to discuss that issue when it begins its convention Sunday in Louisville, Ky. Coaches voted last month against releasing their final bal-

More likely for the BCS is a "hybrid" approach using the coaches and computer polls, plus a selection committee.

"There probably needs to be a third element," Big 10 Commissioner James Delaney said. "I think everybody feels like if you have more information, more ways to look at it, you minimize extremes."

Weiberg said commissioners seemed to like the idea of a selection committee, similar to the 10-person panel of conference commissioners and athletic directors used to set the 65-team field for the NCAA basketball tournament.
"We did not get into the details,

We did not get into the details, but I think there is interest in it," Weiberg said. "We realize a lot of the same issues apply."

Federer opens 2005 season with victory in Qatar Open

The Associated Press

DOHA, Qatar — Roger Federer began 2005 the way he finished 2004: with a victory. Federer beat sixth-seeded Ivan

Ljubicic of Croatia 6-3, 6-1 Saturday in the Qatar Open final for his 21st straight match victory. The Swiss star has won 13 tour-

nament finals in a row, dating to October 2003, and he appears to be in peak form heading into a title defense in the year's first Grand Slam event, which starts Jan. 17.

"I am extremely happy to start the new year in such fine fashion," Federer said. "I am sure this win will give me great confidence going into the Australian Open." Last year, he became the first

man since Mats Wilander in 1988 to win three Grand Slam titles in a season, going 74-6 with 11 titles overall.

The top-ranked and top-seeded Federer needed just 63 minutes to defeat Ljubicic and claim his 23rd career title in his 31st final.

Gore becomes latest Miami player to enter NFL Draft

MIAMI — Miami running back Frank Gore is skipping his senior season and will enter the NFL Draft, becoming the second Hurricane in as many days to make that jump.

"I think it's time to move on," Gore said Friday. He has already signed with

agent David Levine.
Roscoe Parrish, Miami's lead-

ing receiver this season, made his decision to leave school Thursday. Miami coach Larry Coker was among those who said Gore's stock would considerably rise if he stayed at Miami for 2005. Gore

Sports briefs

had two major knee injuries in college, and was occasionally slowed by knee trouble this season. He had a team-best 945 yards, capning a career in which he ran for

1,975 yards and 17 touchdowns.
Gore has a 2-year-old son and a
mother who is seriously ill with
kidney disease, and he wants to
begin providing for them.

Also on Friday, Missouri running back Damien Nash, who left the team in November, announced he would enter the draft. Nash, a junior, rushed for 1,254 yards and 12 touchdowns in two

seasons

The relationship between Nash and Missouri coach Gary Pinkel apparently soured after Nash was critical of play-calling following Missouri's 20-17 loss to Oklahoma State on Oct. 23. He was suspended for one game, and after he returned, his playing time de-

Austria's Grugger wins men's World Cup downhill

CHAMONIX, France — Johann Grugger won a World Cup downhill for the second time this season Saturday to lead a strong showing by Austria, which captured three of the top four spots. For the United States, Daron

For the United States, Daron Rahlves was fifth and overall World Cup leader Bode Miller shared eighth place.

Italy's Kristian Ghedina prevented an Austrian sweep by finishing second. Reigning downhill world champion Michael Walchhofer was third, followed by teammate Mario Scheiber.

Slovenia's Maze wins women's Cup giant slalom

SANTA CATERINA VALFUR-VA, Italy — Slovenia's Tina Maze won a World Cup giant slalom Saturday for her second victory this

She was followed by Canadians Genevieve Simard and Allison Forsyth while Julia Mancuso of the United States was fourth for the best result of her career.

Maze covered the two runs on the new Deborah Compagnoni course in a combined time of 2 minutes, 36.78 seconds.

Boxer Camacho released on bond in Mississippi

GULFPORT, Miss. — Three-time boxing champion Hector "Macho" Camacho was released from jail after a friend paid part of his bond.

Camacho was charged with burglary of a Gulfport computer

Biloxi police also charged him with drug possession after officers said they found him with 10 ecstasy pills in a hotel room when they arrested him Thursday.

The 42-year-old boxer was released Friday after being held on \$75,000 bail for the drug charge and \$50,000 for the burglary charge, police said. Bonding companies are required to collect 10 percent — in this case, \$12,500. A friend put up \$2,000 and Camacho will pay the rest, Randy Hilton of D&H bail bonds told The Associated Perse, on Saturday

Camacho (78-5-2, 38 KOs) has been training on the Mississippi coast for a Jan. 21 middleweight bout with Chris Walsh (19-7-1, 7 KOs) in Gulfport.

Patch girls take two vs. Bitburg

The Patch girls couldn't have picked a better time to win their first games of the season, a weekend sween of four-time defending Division II champion Bitburg.

Patch which lost its first three games of the season, defeated Bitburg 39-27 on Friday in a designated nonconference game and 42-21 in Saturday's conference game on the Panthers' home floor at Patch Barracks.

Nicole Anderson led the way on Friday with 24 points and nine rebounds. Kasy'e Lalau and Alexis McCroskey led the scoring on Saturday with 10 points each for the rebuilding Panthers.

"We're all new this year," said Patch coach Walter Fritz, who credited his volunteer assistant, Kevin McCroskey, for the team's progress. "He really works well with them.'

Patch (1-1 in Division II) hosts Black Forest Academy and AFNORTH on Friday and BFA on Saturday. Bitburg (0-1 in league play) hosts Bamberg for nonconference games this weekend

In other games of note on the first weekend of play following the holidays

K-town stays unbeaten: At Kaiserslautern, Lynndsey Hyter scored 19 points as the Lady Raiders held off Ramstein 50-46 to improve to 4-0.

Three-time All-Europe guard Grosselin led Ramstein with 14 points, but the Lady Royals never emerged from a 21-12 halftime deficit and fell to 3-1.

More significant than the score was \$1,700 raised for the American Red Cross' tsunami relief fund. Kaiserslautern coach Corev Sullivan led the drive by pledging \$5 for every point his team scored.

Next up for K-town is a Divi-



Würzburg's Jennifer Snyder, left,

and Ramstein's Kendra Lenois battle for a loose ball Friday night in Ramstein, Germany, Ramstein defeated Würzburg 38-11.

sion I conference game at Wiesbaden on Saturday. Ramstein plays at Wiesbaden on Friday night and hosts SHAPE on Satur-

Brussels, AFNORTH split: In home-and-home nonconference games on Friday and Saturday, Brussels of Division III and AFNORTH of Division II each col-

lected a home victory.

Brussels won Friday's game 31-23 behind the rebounding of Claris Bottesini and a second-quarter full-court press. Bottesini had nine points, nine rebounds and four steals

On Saturday, Ashley Lewis broke the press and teamed with Whitney Pieterse to dominate the frontcourt in the third quarter of

AFNORTH's 38-26 victory. Bottesini again scored nine points and grabbed nine rebounds, but she was controlled in the second half by AFNORTH's Tauree Blankenship, Pieterse led all scorers with 17 points, while Blankenship added 11 steals to go with her nine points and nine rebounds

AFNORTH will take a 1-4 overall mark into its conference-opening doubleheader against BFA and Patch at Patch on Friday night. The Lady Lions are scheduled to play at Hanau on Saturday. Brussels, also 1-4 overall, is scheduled to open its III-North schedule at Menwith Hill on Friday and Saturday

Simpson's last-second putback lifts Patch boys over Bitburg

Gene Simpson put back a missed shot as time expired Saturday to give the homestanding Patch Panthers a come-from-behind 63-61 victory over Bitburg.

Simpson's bucket capped Patch's 20-9 fourth-quarter run, which erased a 10-point Bitburg lead over the final two minutes Patch, which defeated Bitburg 61-57 in a nonconference game Friday night, evened its Division II record at 1-1.

The two games featured a stat-sheet duel between Nick Brown of Bitburg and Neal Griffin of Patch. Griffin scored 32 points and snared eight rebounds on Friday, then chalked up 29 points and five steals on Saturday. Brown responded with 25 points and 10 rebounds on Friday and 23 points and 12 rebounds on Saturday

Patch freshman Brandon Bingley also played a important role Saturday, scoring 14 points.

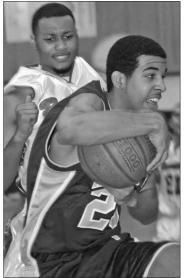
The Panthers will take a 3-2 overall mark into a home Division doubleheader on Friday against AFNORTH and Black Foragainst Apriorit and black for-est Academy. Patch will play BFA again on Saturday. Bitburg (3-2, 2-2) is scheduled to host Bamberg of Division III-South for nonconference games on Friday and Saturday.

In other games of note Friday and Saturday:

Lions end rare skid: At Bamberg, the five-time defending European Division I champion Heidelberg Lions ended two-game losing streak with a 72-38 rout of the Division III Bar-

Tyreke Wesley registered 20 points, nine steals and seven rebounds for Heidelberg (3-2), which saw its two-season 20-game win streak snapped at Ansbach on Dec. 10. T.C. Blanks added 17 points for Heidelberg, which outscored Bamberg 40-11 during Bamberg's over-plagued second half.

Carlos Zapata led Bamberg (0-4) with 13 points. The Barons continue their tour of the upper divisions this Friday and Saturday



Würzburg's Anthony Womack steps in front of Ramstein's Marquiston Showers to grab a rebound Friday night in Ramstein, Germany. Ramstein won 63-44, handing Würzburg its first loss of the year.

at Bitburg of Division II, while Heidelberg returns home to host Division I foe International School of Brussels on Friday and

Ramstein splits, K-town stays perfect: At Ramstein on Friday night, the Royals avenged a one-point, nonconference road

loss to Würzburg on Dec. 4 with a 63-44 romp fueled by Allen Weaver's 28 points. Würzburg fell to

The victory gave the Royals a 1-0 mark in Division I which stood up despite a loss Saturday at Kaiserslautern. The game was

designated as nonconference. In that game, the Red Raiders Strawder and Julian Smalls on Saturday to win 60-43 and improve to 4-0.

The victory left Ramstein at 2-2 overall. The Royals are scheduled for nonconference games at Wies-baden on Friday night and at home against SHAPE on Saturday. Next up for Kaiserslautern is its Division I opener Saturday at Wiesbaden.

Mannheim straight: At Hohenfels, the Mannheim Bison of Division II swept the Hohenfels Tigers of Division III 63-41 on Friday and 56-52 on Saturday to extend their winning streak to four games.

Earl Lee scored 16 points and grabbed 15 rebounds on Saturday as the Bison took a 35-22 halftime lead and held on to improve to 5-1 overall going into a weekend series at home against Vilseck and SHAPE.

Hohenfels III-South conference play Friday and Saturday at Baumholder.



Ramstein's Whitney McCloud splits two Würzburg defenders for an easy layup Friday night in Ramstein, Germany. Ramstein won 63-44.



Local scoreboard

Boys basketball

Division I Ramstein 63, Würzburg 44 (Friday at Ramstein) Würzburg Ramstein 10 11 6 17-44 18 12 24 9-63 Ramstein 18 12 24 9-63
Top scorers—Wzbg: Soo Soo Tauleli 14,
usufin Jennings 10, Anthony Womack 7;
tams: Allen Weaver 28, Whitney McCloud
2, Daniel Dixon 8, Marquiston Showers 8.
Noteworthy—Tauleli led rebounding with

JV-Würzburg 39, Ramstein 30.
Kaiserslautern 60, Ramstein 43
(Saturday at Kaiserslautern)
Ramstein 7 11 13 12-43
Kaiserslautern 23 10 10 17-60

(Saturday at Kaiserslautem)
Ramstein 7 11 13 12-43
Kaiserslautern 23 10 10 17-60
Top scorers—Ram: Allen Weaver 14,
Daniel Dixon 7; Kais: Quentin Strawder 19,
Julian Smalls 19. Julian Smalls 19. Noteworthy—Aaron Ellis led Kaiserslaut-em (4-0) with 13 rebounds; teammate Clin-ton Robinson grabbed 8 rebounds and had 6

metheworthy—Jaron Lists for Ralbertain, and had 6 not political probled rebounds and had 6 not political p

12. Noteworthy—Besides leading five St. John's players in double figures, Davis re-corded a triple-double with It rebounds and 11 assists. He also had 5 blocks and 5 steals. SHAPE is 32 overall going into a league dou-bleheader against Mannheim and Vilseck on Friday at Mannheim. The Spartans are sched-uled for a nonconference game Saturday at Ramstein.

Solewarthy-Memorith improved to 2-0 for SeaSon. Brussels 51, APROMETH 34 SeaSon. Brussels 52, APROMETH 34 SeaSon. Brussels, William 54, APROMETH 34, APROMETH 34

er 10.

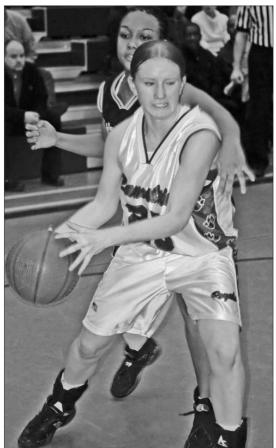
Noteworthy—Miller grabbed 6 rebounds handed out 3 assists and blocked 2 shots in comeback which upped AFNORTH's overal record to 3-2. Preston and Wigley each post ed 5 rebounds. Brussels, which got 18 re bounds from Arena, 1s 2-3.

record to 3.2. Preston and Weiley each packbounds from Arena is 3. Science 1.

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Gashurday 1.5. Science 1.5. Science 1.

Gashurday 1.5. Scien



RAYMOND T. CONWAY/Stars and Stripes

Ramstein's Krissy Grosselin, front, looks to pass as Würzburg's Myaj Stewart defends during a DODDS high school basketball matchup Friday night in Ramstein, Germany, Ramstein defeated Würzburg 38-11, Girls basketball

school baskethall matchup Friday Jamal Womble II, Matt Brown 9; Nich B. Jenson 9, Carlos lones 8, Arthony Marshall Lebenson 9, Carlos lones 8, Arthony Marshall Lebenson 9, Carlos lones 8, Arthony Marshall Lebenson 9, Carlos lones 9, Carlos Lebenson 1, Carlos L

Notherinfels

Top scorers—Mann: Earl Lee 16, Desmond
Brown 15, Reggiel Jenkins 12; Holt: B.J. Denon 16, Anthony Marshall 10, Stephen Washington 10.

And Assists. Tearmante Polee
grabbed 15 rebounds and Hassists. Tearmante Polee
grabbed 15 rebounds and blocked 5 shots.

Washington and Kealtforn Rarson grabbed 5
rebounds apiece for the 0-5 Tipers.

J—Mannheim 50, Hohemlels 36

Division I Kaiserslautern 50, Ramstein 46 (Saturday at Kaiserslautern) erslautern) 8 4 13 21-46 Ramstein 8 4 13 21-46 Kaiserslautern 8 4 13 21-46 Kaiserslautern 11 11 18-50 Top scorers-Rams: Krissy Grosselin 14, orrine Lauture 13, Heather Steele 6, Kendra nori 6, Kais: Lynndsey Hyter 19, Bianca Hyter 12, Anisha Ingram 11, Shordri-ti Harvey 4 2 12, Anisha Ingram 11, Shordri-ti Harvey 1-4tyre had 6 rephounds and 4

Gereina-Verez L. Anisha ingram II. ShonorrNoteworthy—hyter had G rebounds and 4 steals ingram 3 rebounds, 4 steals and 3 assteals ingram 3 rebounds, 4 steals and 3 askalaerslautern improved to 44 overall. The Lady Raiders next play Saturday at WiesLady Raiders next play Saturday at Wieslady Raiders Next play Saturday at Wieslady ingram and heart of the coverally, which plays at Wiesbaden on Friday ingram and book of the Saturday.

Patch 39, Bibburg 27

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Patch 31, 311-37

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sitburg 27 ngen, Ge (Friday at Vainingen, Germany)
Bitburg 2 11 3 11-27
Patch 15 8 11 5-39
Top scorers—Bitb: Alex Bintz 8, Monica Bintz 7, Eric Winters 6; Pat: Nicole Andersor 15, Heather Hall 8, Jennifer Ocenar 4, Kasy's Lalau 4.

Brussels 31, AFNORTH 23 (Friday at Brussels; score by quarters unavailable) Halftime—Brussels 11, AFNORTH 6. Top scorers—AFN: Tauree Blankenship 9, whitney Pieterse S; Brus: Claris Bottesini 9,

Whitney Pieterse 5; Brus: Claris Buccesini Qualification (Caittin Quina)

Noteworthy Bottesini posted 9 rebounds and 4 steals from Russels, which got 6 rebounds and 6 steals from Quinn. Blankenship registered 7 rebounds, 9 steals and 3 blocks; Pieterse made 4 steals and collected

and 5 steals for Hohenfels, which got 6 re-bounds from Mayhue. Mannheim's Lisa Will-lams posted 8 steals and 7 rebounds; team-mate Amanda Knox contributed 8 steals and

assists, JV—Hohenfels 15, Mannheim 11 (16 min-

JV-Hohertels IS, Mannheim II (16 minMannheim S, Nobenels 42
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(Saturday at Würzburg 21 (Saturday at Würzburg) 24 (Saturday at Würzburg) 25 (Saturday at Würzburg) 26 (Saturday at Würzburg) 27 (Saturday at Würzburg) 27 (Saturday at Würzburg) 28 (Saturday at Saturday at Saturday

Wrestling

Ramstein Takedown Tournament (Saturday at Ramstein) Team scoring—Ramstein 199, Heidelberg 95.5, Würzburg 91.5, Bitburg 73, Brussels 59.5, Patch 38.5, Baumholder 37, Kalserslaut-59.5, Patch 36.5, Baumholder 37, Kaiserslaut-ern 33, Wiesbaden 29.5. 103 pounds-1, Trey Fortunato (Ram); 2, An-thony Davis (Wzbg); 3, James Ricks (Patch);

hony Davis (Wzbg); 3, James Ricks (Patch); Chris Spencer (Wies). 112-1, Joh Hoffman (Hedd); 2, Jordan Borino Ram); 3, Chris Toner (Held); 4, Ryan Single-on (Bit), 119-1, Paul Moseman (Bruss); 2, David Tow (Baum); 3, Ryan Gough (Ram); 4, Harri-Tow (Baum); 3, Ryan Gough (Ram); 4, Harri-Tow (Baum); 3, Ryan Gough (Ram); 4, Harri-

row (Baum); 3, Ryan Gough (Ram); 4, Harri-on Hayes (Kais). 125-1, Noah Sheppard (Ram); 2, Michael Za-har (Heid); 3, Andrew Moon (Heid); 4, lichael Walker (Baum).

Charles Valencia Control Contr

Wzbg); 3, Sean ------ovar (Bit). 171-1, Bryan Isbell (Bruss); 2, Andrew Za-har (Heid); 3, Madison Hayes (Kais); 4, Ely

ndi (1963), 3, lex (Heid). 189-1, Eric Popp (Bruss); 2, Mike Beuckens Patch): 3, John Winston (Ram); 4, Adrian

(Patch); 3, John Winston (kerrii); 4, Auroni Emmit (Ram), 215-1, Cole Maxey (Ram); 2, Peter Lopez (Wzbg); 3, Brandon Simmons (Heid); 4, Steven Shrock (Wzbg), 275-1, James Horst (Ram); 2, Sascha Clavez (Kals); 3, Delles Osborn (Wzbg), Moteworthy—Most Takedowns in Fewest Moteworthy—Most Takedowns in Fewest Mount (Mass) (Mass), Mass (Mass), Mas

Military basketball

Northern Region men Spangdahlem 62, Baumholder 51 Top scorers-Baum: Daralin Lawson 20, Kenon Isbael 19: Spang: Deangelis Bright 14, Evinn Beck 11, Robert Harris 11.

Familiar refrain in Philly

After losing three straight NFC title games, it's Super Bowl or bust once again for Eagles

BY ROB MAADDI

The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — New year, another playoff season, same theme for the Philadelphia Eagles: It's Super Bowl or bust

The Eagles set a franchise record with 13 victories this season, won their fourth straight NFC East title and finished first in the confer-

ence for the third year in a row None of it matters if they don't reach the Super Bowl after losing the past three NFC

championship games 'You don't win the Super Bowl and no one really cares," quarterback Donovan McNabb said, "No one cares who finished second and probably a lot of people can't even remember who finished second in most of the Super Bowls. If you don't win the Super Bowl, it

doesn't matter what you did during the year The Eagles will play their first playoff game against Seattle, St. Louis or Minnesota on Jan. 16. For some players, it'll be their first action in four weeks

After star wide receiver Terrell Owens went down with an ankle injury that probably will keep him out the rest of the season, coach Andy Reid decided to rest several of his key starters in the final two regular-season games because the Eagles already had secured

home-field advantage throughout the playoffs. McNabb played one quarter, while running back Brian Westbrook and defensive end Jevon Kearse didn't play in the past two

Some critics questioned Reid's philosophy, saying the long layoff will hurt the Eagles. Other coaches, such as New England's Bill Belichick, used an opposite approach, playing the regulars in meaningless games.

"I have a lot of confidence in our guys and wouldn't have been able to do this without them," Reid said. "I've got some tremendous leaders in that locker room and guys that will be very focused in on what is at hand, coming un in the playoffs. I am looking forward to it and I think they are.

With mostly reserves playing the past two games, the Eagles were outscored 58-17 in losses to the Rams and Cincinnati. Only the 1967 Green Bay Packers and 1972 Washington Redskins went to the Super Bowl after losing the final two regular-season games. The Packers beat Oakland, while the Redskins lost to Miami

"We'll be well-rested and we'll have all our bullets back, ready to go out there in the first game," cornerback Sheldon Brown said.

Owens' injury was a devastating blow to an offense that was nearly unstoppable in the first 12 games of the season. The Eagles averaged 28.3 points in the first dozen games, won nine of those by double-digit margins and five by at least 21 points.

Without Owens, Philadelphia's receiving corps — Todd Pinkston, Freddie Mitchell Greg Lewis and Billy McMullen - is ordinary at best. But the Eagles still have McNabb and



Despite being huge favorites and playing at home in the past two NFC championship games, the Eagles were throttled by Tampa Bay and Carolina.

Westbrook, a dangerous threat who had 1,515 vards rushing and receiving.

McNabb had the best season of his six-year career, throwing for 3,875 yards, 31 touchdowns and just eight interceptions to earn his fifth trip to the Pro Bowl. He's determined to

get the Eagles to the Super Bowl. "I love to rise to the challenge in hig games," McNabb said. "I've played in many big games in my career so far and I think I've played well in those big games. I'm not putting the NFC championships all on my back. This is a team game. We lost. I take the blame most of the time, but I think everybody else should take the blame, as well."

If Reid's approach backfires, he could be the main target for any such blame.

Hasselbeck has learned from his great gaffe

Matt Hasselbeck is reminded often about his comments before the overtime coin flip at Green Bay in

notes

last season's playoffs. "If I hadn't done that, no would

know who I was," he said as Seattle prepared for the playoff matchup with St. Louis. It's hard to forget.

Hasselbeck was was jawing with Ryan good-naturedly Longwell and Ahman Green of the Packers when the referee's microphone clicked on. It caught Hasselbeck barking, We want the ball and we're

going to score!" Next came another dubious moment for Hasselbeck. His throw to Alex Bannister was intercepted by Al Harris and returned for a 52-yard TD, ending Seattle's season.

"I didn't dwell on it," Hasselbeck said. "People ask if it haunted me. It didn't. It was what it was, a play you'd like to have back. I watched it on film with (quarterbacks coach) Jim Zorn after the season was over, like I would do with any other

game. We learned from it.' He's promised that neither event will happen again. He'll watch his mouth when the microphones are nearby, and said he learned from the game-ending mistake.

Preparing for Peyton

Never one to hold back, Broncos defensive coordinator Larry Coyer said Denver plans "to go raise mortal hell" with the Indianapolis offense on

Sunday. In an animated interview. Coyer acknowledged the huge challenge the Colts present, but said nobody on the Bron-

cos was surrendering. His most fiery comments came concerning Broncos rookie Roc Alexander, who has been forced into a nickel back role in the secondary and will have to cover one of Indianapo-

lis' three 1.000-vard receivers. "It's tough for everybody," Coyer said. "It's competitive. These are good players. But the thought process can't be that way. They are what they are. We are what we are. And we've got to go raise hell and see who wins. We're going to go raise

mortal hell and we'll find out.' Coyer acknowledged his players weren't ready the last time they traveled to Indianapolis, a 41-10 loss in last season's playoffs.

He gave credit to the Colts' coaching staff and praised Peyton Manning.

"The quarterback is so adept at finding where the holes are, it makes you want to puke," he said.

Steelers have everything it takes to win it all

BY CHARLES BRICKER

South Florida Sun-Sentinel FORT LAUDERDALE. Fla. -I'm poring over the Pittsburgh

Steelers season, game by game, looking for something substantive - anything - that would suggest they w won't win Super Bowl

It's not there.

There are glitches, like Willie Ponder's 91-yard return for a touchdown to open the Giants game on Dec. 18. That must have given coach Bill Cowher apo plexy. And Rudi Johnson of the Rengals nicked them for 149 rush. ing vards and Terry Glenn caught for 151 in the Dallas game.

But these are not vulnerabilities - not when you don't see lapses like these in other games.

When you examine the Steelers, week by week, from top to bottom, and look not just at what they've accomplished but the genof the club, which allows it

to play at a high level in big mo-ments, it's difficult to find any reason why they

won't win it all Of course, weird things happen in playoff games. But there are

only so many Music City Miraout there. Injuries stall top-tier teams, like the one to receiver Terrell Owens, which dooms the Eagles' chances. The Steelers have their dings

and bruises, but they don't have any key players, such as cornerback Tv Law of the Patriots, who have missed so many games it's going to take precious time to shed the rust.

They pass well, though selec-tively. They defend the run. They have excellent linebackers who not only blitz but drop efficiently into coverage

composed rookie quarterback They have superb coaching with Cowher and the best defensive coordinator in football in Dick LeReau

They defeat the teams they're supposed to defeat, and they dethe elite clubs as well. They're 3-0 against teams in the playoffs

What they do best is run the ball, and they run it 39 times a "There are certain stats in the

NFL that are critical ones. Turnovers obviously being a critical one. But rushing attempts plus pass completions - the combina-tion of those two things usually determine the better teams, and the teams that win the most," Patriots offensive coordinator Charlie Weis said

A year ago the Steelers ran only percent of the time and had a 6-10 record. This year they've run

ALL WORK

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OF.

61.1 percent and are 15-1. They signed Duce Staley as an unrestricted free agent, and he battered defenses for 101 yards a game until he was hurt. In came Jerome Bettis, who has had six 100-yard games since then.

On Sunday, in a game that would not alter his protected home-field position in the playoffs Cowher rested crucial starters, including Staley and Bettis, and sent in an undrafted rookie from North Carolina named Willie Parker.

Into one of the strongest run de-fenses, Parker produced 102 yards against Buffalo, which need-

ed to win to make the playoffs.

Is Parker that good? Probably not. But give some credit to Pitts burgh's offensive linemen, none of whom has missed a start — left to right Marvel Smith, Alan Fane ca, Jeff Hartings, Oliver Ross and Keydrick Vincent.

The likelihood is that the Steelers will play their divisional game against San Diego and then New England in the AFC title game They've not been beaten at Heinz Field and have given up only two touchdowns in their past four

Certainly it's possible that the defense or offense could have an off day, though not both. The Giants got 30 points, but the Steelers scored 33. They managed only 13 points from the Dolphins

but gave up just three They do what's required on the day and there's too much veteran leadership, especially along the offensive line, to believe they'll crack psychologically.

The Pittsburgh Steelers are going to win the Super Bowl



Few secrets between rivals

Playoff game expected to mirror two regular-season nail-biters

BY ARNIE STAPLETON The Associated Press

GREEN BAY, Wis. - Ryan Longwell expects Sunday's show down between the evenly matched Minnesota Vikings and Green Bay Packers to come down to a last-second field goal.

And why not? Both times they played in the regular season Green Bay won 34-31 on field goals by Longwell as time expired, capping impressiv 2-minute drives by Brett Favre. impressive

Longwell nailed a 33-yarder on Nov. 14 at Lambeau Field and a 29-varder on Christmas Eve at Minneapolis that gave the Packers their third straight NFC North crown.

The difference in Sunday's first-round playoff game could be a kicker's toe yet again.

"I think so," Longwell said.
"You look at them, the talent is very equal. They had a tough stretch at the end, but we had a tough stretch at the beginning So you look at our seasons and they're very similar. I just think it sets up for an interesting game because you just don't know what you're going to get from a rivalry like this?

Despite their sweep, the Packers aren't overconfident about the matchup. They know they easily could have lost both times to Min nesota because the difference between the teams is so thin.

Both have prolific passing games with star wide receivers, superior pass protection and multitalented offensive backfields to Minnesota (8-8) at

Green Bay (10-6)

OPENING LINE - Packers by 6.

RECORD VS. SPREAD - Vikings 7-9

Packers 7-8. SERIES RECORD — Packers lead 44-42-1

overall. LAST MEETING — Packers beat Vikings 34-31 on Dec. 24 at Minnesota. LAST POSTSEASON MEETING — First

meeting.

LAST WEEK — Vikings lost to Redskins
21-18. Packers beat Bears 31-14.

VIKINGS OFFENSE — OVERALL (4),
RUSH (18), PASS (2),

VIKINGS DEFENSE — OVERALL (28),

PACKERS OFFENSE — OVERALL (3), PACKERS OFFENSE — OVERALL (3), PACKERS DEFENSE — OVERALL (25),

PACKERS DEFENSE — OVERALL (25).

REY MATCHUP — KREY MATCHUP — KREY

STEAKS, STATS AND NOTES — Packers was not broad parse against Whise, there are swo not broad parse against Whise, there are swo not broad parse against Whise, there are not broad parse against whise part was a parse against a second in the same against the same against second in the same against t

keep opponents guessing. Each also sports a banged-up defense, a suspect secondary, a tendency to tackle poorly and a penchant for penalties.

Green Bay ranks first in the NFC in total offense and second in passing. Minnesota ranks first in the NFC in passing and second in total offense.

The Packers' defense was 25th in the NFL, the Vikings' 28th.

Of the eight teams playing in the first round of the playoffs, Green Bay and Minnesota have faced each other more times than any other set of opponents. And no matchup features a series as close as the Packers' 44-42-1 edge over the Vikings.

"We know those guys, they know us. We know what they do, they know what we do," Favre

The Packers became the ninth team in league history to reach the postseason after posting a 1-4 record, and the Vikings made it despite finishing 3-7 — so momentum is on Green Bay's side.

But the season sweep "really wouldn't matter a whole lot if we don't beat them in this game They would have the last laugh," Favre said. "They can easily win the ballgame just as well as we could. We just played. We know each other as well as you can know a team. There won't be a whole lot of tricks up either team's sleeves. It's your goods against their goods.

Vikings kicker Morten Andersen, who said he went ice fishing



last week to prepare for the bitter cold. also expects a kicker to be lining up for another game-winner on Sunday, and he hopes this time it's not Longwell.

'He's had enough, hasn't he?' Andersen said. Longwell has four game-win-

ning field goals in the past seven weeks, including one against Detroit in frigid conditions like those expected Sunday.

You have to prepare for that every week and especially in the playoffs," Longwell said. "The teams are just so evenly matched and so equally talented in the playoffs that you've got to prepare for close games.

Andersen couldn't agree more: "Playoffs are always pretty close And usually the kicking game plays a vital role in the outcome.

Vikings coach Mike Tice is kicking himself over scoring too quickly at the end of both regular-season games against the Packers thus giving Favre a chance to back - something he's done 34 times in the fourth quarter during his NFL career.

"Obviously, we have to, against Brett Favre, not give him the ball last." Tice said. "If we can improve by one play or score a little later, who knows how this thing's going to turn out?"

League refuses to rescind warning to Denver's Lynch

By EDDIE PELLS

DENVER - The NFL refused Friday to retract wording in a letter to Broncos safety John Lynch that warned he could be ejected for making another illegal hit like the one that knocked Colts tight end Dallas Clark out of last Sunday's game The league fined Lynch \$75,000 for the helmet-to-helmet hit. Along with the fine, NFL disciplinarian Gene Washington sent a letter reprimanding Lynch and informing him that of ficials for Sunday's playoff game at Indianapolis have been alerted to keep an eye on Lynch and to eject him if warranted.

Lynch's attorney, Harvey Steinberg, wrote a letter to the NFL appealing the fine and demanding that language threaten-

ing ejection be rescinded. 'We fear that the integrity of this contest will be impacted ad-versely here by the influence on the impartiality of the officiating crew," Steinberg wrote in a letter obtained by The Denver Post.

On Friday, a league spokesan said Art Shell, the NFL's senior vice president of football operations, replied to Steinberg. 'He reviewed his points, be-

lieves Gene Washington's letter is appropriate, and therefore will not be making a retraction," the spokesman said.

Slow-down: Broncos gear up for machine-like Manning

SLOW-DOWN, FROM BACK PAGE

Turf" in the NFC Championship Game in January 2000. The Buccaneers limited them

to 11 points but still lost.

In Super Bowl XXXVII. another MVP quarterback, Rich Gannon, led another highly touted offense, the Oakland Raiders, that

was deemed unstoppable. Five interceptions later, including three for touchdowns, the Tampa Bay Buccaneers were holding the Vince Lombardi Trophy. "I think there's a tendency to

think that No. 1 offenses can't be stopped, but I think if you play great defense, it's a tremendous equalizer," Lynch said.

Avoid missed assign-ments/tackles: The last two weeks of the regular season have showcased Denver at its relative best, though matters arguably might have been different had the Tennessee Titans' Steve McNair and Manning played more than a combined three snaps.

The Titans and Colts combined for 353 yards, 18 first downs and 30 points, helping the Broncos finish ranked fourth in total defense

But there have been games in which Denver often has looked lost - at Cincinnati, against Atlanta, late at home against Oakland and at Kansas City.

"I know we've got the talent to natch up with them, that's no problem," Denver cornerback Champ Bailey said. "We've got to execute. ... If we're in position with the athletes that we have, there's no one that can beat us. If you get us out of position we're just like any other defense, good or bad."

■ Confusion, plus contusions: Manning doesn't do all those pre-snap histrionics for nothing. He wants the defense to give away its alignment prematurely,

then attack its weakness. The Broncos have to mix up things without mixing up them-

"Whatever we do, we've just got to do it well," Bailey said. "If it's cover-2 zone blitz or man-to-man We've just got to do it well."

selves

The Broncos were forced to play a lot of zone coverages in last year's playoff game because of a depleted secondary.

They appear better suited to do

nore this time, particularly with the addition of Bailey "Whether we do or not, we've got to," Coyer said.

And expect the Broncos to try to get physical with the Colts receivers and attack Manning as much as possible with frequent zone blitzes.

There are other areas of con-

Edgerrin James ran for 1.548 yards and was second in the NFL in yards from scrimmage (2,031) And tight ends Marcus Pollard and Dallas Clark are no slouches, either

Even so, Cover did manage a smile while discussing all the problems Indianapolis can create. You know what?" he said, eyes widening, "I think it's going to be

Denver (10-6) at Indianapolis (12-4)

OPENING LINE - Colts by 7.
RECORD VS. SPREAD - Broncos 6-7.

SERIES RECORD — Broncos lead 11-5 verall; Colts lead 1-0 in playoffs.

LAST MEETING — Broncos beat Colts 3-14 on Jan. 2 at Denver.

3-14 on Jan. 2 at Denver.

LAST POSTSEASON MEETING — Colts leat Broncos 41-10 on Jan. 4, 2004, at Indinapolis in AFC wild-card game.

LAST WEEK — Broncos beat Colts

3-14, BRONCOS OFFENSE — OVERALL (5), PRONCOS DEFENSE — OVERALL (4), BRONCOS DEFENSE — OVERALL (4), PLUSH (4), PASS (6).

COLTS OFFENSE - OVERALL (2), RUSH

b), PASS (1). COLTS DEFENSE — OVERALL (29), RUSH

COLT DEPRES — UPOCALL (L.9), KIDS LEVER LE

STREAKS, STATS AND NOTES — Game

STREAKS, STATS AND NOTES — Game makes and the state of th

Ferguson recovers quickly but unlikely to play Sunday

BY ARNIE STAPLETON The Associated Press

GREEN BAY, Wis. - There's a slight chance that Packers wide receiver Robert Ferguson could play Sunday, just three weeks after a clothesline hit by Jacksonville's Donovin Darius left him temporarily paralyzed.

Green Bay coach Mike Sherman upgraded Ferguson from doubtful to questionable for Sunday's game against Minnesota after Ferguson performed well during Friday's practice, his first full workout since the injury. Ferguson, however, hasn't had

any contact yet, and that will probably prevent him from suiting up Sunday. The more likely scenario is for him to play next week at Atlanta should the Packers win.

Even if he were to play against the Vikings, Sherman said Ferguson would not return kicks.

Ferguson is still experiencing headaches but has regained sensa tion and strength in his extremities, and team doctors cleared him this week to return to the field.

His new helmet was equipped with a visor to cut down on the glare that continues to bothers him. His chin snap and face mask



Green Bav's Robert Ferguson practiced for the first time Friday after absorbing this hit by Jacksonville's Donovin Darius on Dec. 19.

was broken on the old helmet, which was stripped from his head when he was hit Dec. 19 by Darius, drawing a 15-yard penalty, an ejection and a \$75,000 fine.

Ferguson said he appreciated a phone call from Darius in the hospital, but he didn't like Jacksonville coach Jack Del Rio referring to him as "that guy" instead of by name while defending his safety over the vicious hit.

Schottenheimer earns AP award

BY BARRY WILNER
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Marty Schottenheimer's guidance of one of the great turnarounds in NFL history won him The Associated Press 2004 NFL Coach of the Year award.

Schottenheimer took the San Diego Chargers from tailender to division champion, from a 4-12



embarrassment to a 12-4 power that was to host the New York Jets in a playoff game Satur-

day night. The 61-year-old, who also has worked in Cleveland, Kansas City and Washington, did his best work of an 18½-season

head coaching career.

"There is a great sense of satisfaction when you're able to get things going in the right frection," said Schottenheimer, who received 27½ of the 48 vote since honders and anatonal panel of writers and broadcasters who cover pro football. "I always pride myself on one thing.—I think I'm a teacher. It's fun to see your players listen and work together to apply the basic philosophies and concepts that are important to success."

Many of Schottenheimer's team have done that He's coached division winners in Cleveland, where he was the head man from mid-1984 through 1988. And in Kansas City (1989-98). He even had an 8-stream of the coache o

But his third season in San Diego has been charmed. And perhaps a bit lucky, because Schottenheimer was looking for a different quarterback and hoped to go with first-round draft pick Phillip Rivers.

When Rivers held out for half of training camp, Schottenheimer stuck with Drew Brees. Brees wound up as Comeback Player of the Year and Schottenheimer became Coach of the Year for the first time.

His players say Schottenheimer's decision to form a players council and ease up in practices, as well as remodeling the locker room, made a big difference.

"Tve seen it all year," said linebacker Donnie Edwards, who also played for Schottenheimer in Kansas City. "The way he's changed his coaching to understand the players and let the players understand the coaches — so it's a two-way street now.

"There are so many things that have changed. It's all been for the best. I'm really excited about him, because he came into the year with great enthusiasm and great energy and it transferred over right to us as players, and we've been able to translate that onto the field."

San Diego won nine of its last 10 games — the loss was in overtime at AFC South champion Indianapolis — to run away with the AFC West. Schottenheimer got superb performances from unher alded tight end Antonio Gates and star running back LaDainian Tomlinson, who both made the All-Pro team. Edwards was one of the league's best defenders, as was tackle Jamal Williams.

was tackle Jamal Williams.

That made the 2004 season even more fulfilling for Schottenheimer.

"At the end of the day, there is more than just the personal enjoyment that you've experienced," he said, "It's as much, if not more so, the fact that you can share it will all these people that have worked together with you to achieve it."

Schottenheimer is the first San Diego coach to win the award. He was trailed by Pittsburgh's Bill Cowher (14½ votes), who led the Steelers to the league's best record, 15-1. Cowher won it in

Last year's winner, Bill Belichick of New England, got three votes. Atlanta's Jim Mora received two and Carolina's John Fox got one.

Ravens' Reed chosen as Defensive Player of Year

NEW YORK — Ed Reed wasn't just the best defensive player on the Baltimore Ravens — no small feat with Ray Lewis as a teammate — he was the best defender in the NFL this season.

The Ravens safety outplayed even his illustrious buddy and training partner in winning The Associated Press 2004 Defensive Player of the Year award. No one was more impressed than Lewis.

"He deserves it," said the two-time winner of the honor. "He prepares like a coach. He loves to play, period. He brings joy to work. He's tough and smart."

Reed showed just how tough, smart, resourceful and skilled he is by dominating games from the safety position. Usually, it's linebackers such as Lewis or ends who get lots of sacks or cornerbacks who shut down opponents



San Diego Chargers coach Marty Schottenheimer, who guided his team to a 12-4 record and a division title after a 4-12 record, was voted The Associated Press Coach of the Year.

who control games

who control games.

But Reed, in his third season out of the University of Miami — also Lewis' college — had a greater impact than any other defender.

He earned 20 votes from a national panel of writers and broadcasters who cover pro football, beating Steelers linebacker James Farrior, who had 16. He is the first safety to win the award in 20 years.

Gibbs hires new QBs coach

ASHBURN, Va. — Joe Gibbs began the offseason overhaul of the Washington Redskins' offense Friday, hiring West Coast offense veteran Bill Musgrave as quarterbacks coach.

"He brings in a lot of new ideas," Gibbs said. "We're looking for ideas there. It's a good time to bring in someone who gives you different ideas and brings different viewpoints."

Musgrave's hiring came at the end of four days of meetings in which the Redskins coaches critiqued the roster from top to botton to plot a strategy for free agency. They also talked with several players, including left tackler Chris Samuels, whose contracts need to renegotiated to clear room under the salary cap.

Haslett will return for sixth year with Saints

The Associated Pres

NEW ORLEANS — Jim Haslett has been told by New Orleans Saints owner Tom Benson that he will return for a sixth season as coach.

Haslett's five-year record of 42-38 is the second best in team history behind Jim Mora's 93-78 mark. The Saints, however, have missed the playoffs four straight years. This season, New Orleans started 4-8 but won its final four games to finish 8-8.

"There's been a lot of speculation about the coach the whole year, and we wanted to get that behind us as quick as possible," general manager Mickey Loomis said. "We're strongly behind Jim. He's our coach. We strongly believe that he is going to lead this team to a championship." Haslett declined comment Saturdav.

Loomis said Benson met with Haslett on Friday in West Palm Beach, Fla., where the owner has been on vacation. Loomis also met with Haslett during the week.

week.

"Jim and I met several times during the week to talk about things we need to improve on and set the tone for the next year,"
Loomis said. "Jim had to get some feelings on the table and we had to get that behind us."

Haslett has two years remaining on a five-year contract that pays him an average of \$3 million a season.

Astros await word on Beltran; Indians, Millwood reach deal

RONALD BLUM

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — The Houston Astros will find out shortly whether they'll keep Carlos Beltran. Competing against the New

York Mets and perhaps other teams, the Astros faced a Saturday midnight EST deadline to re-sign the speedy center fielder who helped Houston come within a win of its first World Series appearance.

Beltran, 27, has been seeking a contract in excess of \$100 million. Astros owner Drayton McLane spoke with Beltran's agent, Scott Boras, on Saturday morning.

"There's been no new developments," Astros spokesman Jimmy Stanton said. "There's nothing new to report. ... It'll be a

long day."

After Saturday, the Astros would be unable to sign Beltran

until May 1.

Also Friday, the Los Angeles Dodgers closed in on a contract with Red Sox postseason hero Derek Lowe worth about \$36 million over four years and finalized their \$24 million, three-year deal to keep left-hander Odalis Perez.

"I can't comment yet — saying yes or saying no," Lowe said from his home in Fort Myers, Fla., when asked about a possible future with the Dodgers.

Los Angeles was holding off finalizing a contract with Lowe, wanting first to complete a deal that would send Shawn Green to Arizona, a lawyer involved in those talks said on condition of anonymity.

Green, who is due to earn \$16 million this season, did not reach an agreement with the Diamondbacks on a contract extension before Thursday's deadline, but Arizona and the Dodgers requested a new window Friday night. Green and the Diamondbacks were given until Monday to agree to an extension that would allow the teams to finalize a revised trade.

"It's a slightly different deal," Diamondbacks general partner Ken Kendrick said. "We hope we are able to come to terms with Shawn. We were relatively close on certain things and never really had a chance to get to other thines."

Dodgers General Manager Paul DePodesta confirmed the matter went to the commissioner's office, but he would not elaborate.

Lowe was 14-12 with a 5.42 ERA in 33 starts for Boston last season. But he was 3-0 with a 1.86 ERA in four games during the postseason, three of them starts. He was the winner in the final game of all three postseason series — against the Angels, Yankees and Cardinals — as the Red Sox won their first World Series in 86 wears.

About the possibility of pitch-

ing for the Dodgers, Lowe said: "They won their division last year. Any time you can go to a team that has won, or has a chance to win, it definitely would be a good situation."

Lowe said he was disappointed the Red Sox never made him an offer to return, but added: "I knew it was heading down that path late in the season. You realize that it's a business. It was definitely an enjoyable place to play. I have nothing but good things and positive things to say about playing there."

Kevin Millwood, who like Beltran and Lowe is represented by Boras, finalized a \$7 million, one-year contract with the Cleveland Indians on Saturday.

Millwood is guaranteed \$3 million in salary. He also gets a \$4 million signing bonus, but that money is contingent on his not spending more than 20 days on the disabled list for a shoulder or elbow injury sustained while mitching—nor fielding or batting.

Millwood also can earn an additional \$1 million in performance bonuses, getting the full amount if he makes 34 starts or pitches 215 innings.

If Millwood spends 21 or more days on the DL for an injury to his shoulder or elbow sustained while pitching, he would lose 1/183rd of the signing bonus for each day on the DL, including the first 20. That reduction calculates to \$21.857 ber day.

"Kevin is a proven, front-of-the-rotation veteran starting pitcher who has considerable experience in the playoff environment," Indians General Manager Mark Shapiro said. "That experience will serve as an invaluable resource to our young pitchers."

While waiting for Beltran's decision, the Mets reached a preliminary agreement on a one-year contract with infielder Miguel Cairo worth about \$900,000.

Left-hander Chris Hammond and the San Diego Padres agreed to a \$750,000, one-year contract that is contingent on the reliever's passing a physical next week. Gabe White, another left-handed reliever, agreed to a \$600,000, one-year contract with the Atlanta Braves.

Designated hitter Ruben Sierra is staying with the Yankees, agreeing Saturday to a \$1.5 million, one-year contract. Also facing the Saturday deadline to re-sign were pitcher Pedro Astacio and first baseman Dave McCarty (Boston); catcher Brent Mayne (Carly (Boston); catcher Brent Mayne (Glanville Chiladelphia). All but Glanville were considering re-signing.

Among players eligible for salary arbitration, Detroit first baseman Carlos Pena agreed to a one-year contract worth \$2.575.000.

There are 103 players who remain eligible to file by Jan. 14.

SPORTS



Patch boys, girls deafeat Bitburg as prep sports return after holiday break, Pages 39, 40

Denver's slow-down tactics

Broncos eager to make amends against Colts' prolific offense

BY LEE RASIZER

Rocky Mountain News

All the pleasantries had just

been handed out and Larry Coyer had more than given the Indianapolis Colts their due Wednesday. Peyton Manning: greatest player in the game today.

er in the game today.

The coaching staff that guides him: brilliant.

The receivers who catch Manning's passes: best in football as a group.

But as the Denver Broncos defensive coordinator kept talking to reporters flanking him, his face began to redden.

The intensity level began rising. And about six questions in, the usually serene Coyer erupted.

Enough about what the Colts' top-ranked offense is capable of doing. Instead, he wanted to chat about Denver having what it takes to slow them down in the teams' wild-card playoff matchup Sunday at the RCA Dome."

"They are what they are. They're very good. And we are what we are," Coyer said. "Now we have to go raise hell and see who wins. And we're going to raise mortal hell, OK? And we'll find out. That's all I know to say. ... All the other stuff is [expletive] and I won't listen to it. We'll see.

and I won't listen to it. We'll see.
Let's wait until the game, then
make our comments."

The only statement the Broncos defense made in its playoff meeting at Indianapolis in January 2004 was that it wasn't ready for raising anything but the Colts' points total.

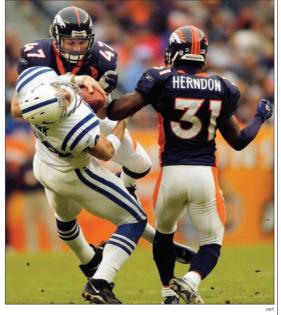
Manning completed 12 passes for 10 or more yards, including touchdowns of 31, 46, 23 and 87 yards. Receivers Marvin Harrison and Brandon Stokley each had 100-yard performances for the first time in playoff history. And that occurred in the first half.



Denver Indianapo Broncos at Colts 7 p.m. Sunday: AFN-Atlantic, Pacific

AFN-Atlantic, Pacific and AFN-Radio

Game time is Central European



Broncos safety John Lynch (47) lowers the boom on Colts tight end Dallas Clark during Sunday's game in Denver. Lynch, who was fined \$75,000 by the NFL for the helmet-to-helmet hit, was added to the Broncos secondary, along with Champ Balley, after Denver was torched 41-10 in the playoffs last year in Indianapolis.

The Broncos (10-6) vow there won't be a repeat this time.

"I promise you one thing," Broncos defensive tackle Ellis Johnson said. "We will show up in Indianapolis to play on Sunday."

Once they arrive, how do they figure to handle the league's No. 2 offense?

There are a few ways the Bron-

There are a few ways the Broncos will enhance their chances:

Turn up the intensity: After Denver's playoff loss, Coyer was incredulous that the defense could be so flat emotionally.

"A whole bunch of this game is intensity," he said Wednesday. "This is the real deal. You're one-and-done and that's the way it is until it's over. And if you ain't ready to put it all out there, we're



Against Denver in last year's playoffs, Peyton Manning completed 22 of 26 passes for 377 yards, five TDs and no interceptions. ■ Don't fall into the hype: The Colts average 32.6 points, boast three 1,000-yard receivers and the league's likely Most Valuable Player in Manning, so they already

have gotten Denver's attention.
"To look at it on paper, it's kind
of like, 'Man that can't be right,' "
Johnson said.

Still, it doesn't mean Indianapolis is unbeatable.

"It's just a matter of slowing them down to a point," Johnson said

The comments the Broncos are hearing this week, that they have little chance of doing just that, are familiar to safety John Lynch.
At Tampa Bay, he played against the St. Louis Rams' high-powered "Greatest Show on

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Forecast at Lambeau Field calls for another bitterly close call between rivals

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Productive Okafor the centerpiece of Bobcats' inaugural season

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World No. 1 Singh parlays scalding start into two-shot lead in Hawaii

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Schottenheimer selected NFL coach of the year Page 43